Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

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Fewer babies using Early Intervention program. **PAGE 2**

Food, games, dancing at Japanese festival. **PAGE 3**

NMC closure plan will ease student transfers

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under the recently approved closure plan for the Northern Marianas College, students will have the option of transferring to other schools off island if NMC's accreditation status is terminated in January.

The closure plan, approved by the NMC Board of Regents earlier this month, was a requirement under the college's show cause status and does not mean the college is closing, said NMC president Carmen Fernandez.

See NMC'S on Page 4

Students take part in a parade at Koblerville Elementary School's United Nation's Day celebration. Each class represented a different country.
KRISTI EATON

Glenna Reyes is appointed LB director

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Legislative leaders have announced the appointment of Glenna SP Reyes to serve as director of the Legislative Bureau.

Reyes replaces former director Joaquin Omar, whose contract expired last month. Her

See LEGISLATIVE on Page 4

CHC emergency is extended anew

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial has extended the state of emergency for the in-house pharmacy at the Commonwealth Health Center for another 30 days.

The pharmacy was first placed under

See FITIAL on Page 4

Celebrating differences

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There were grass skirts, a handmade Trojan horse and Michael Jackson's "Heal the World."

It was all part of Koblerville and William S. Reyes elementary schools' United Nation's

See PUBLIC on Page 4

9 DAYS TO GO BEFORE ELECTION DAY

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to wear an orange shirt anytime this week?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

26 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Grisly Decor
For home-decor retailers, Halloween may be the silver lining in this month's economic storm clouds.

HOUSEKEEPING...Page 10

Shot Dead
The mother and brother of Jennifer Hudson were found shot dead Friday at a South Side home.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Around the CNMI

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Birthday greetings go out to Judith "Juju" Cabrera, who is celebrating her 17th birthday today, Oct. 26 Greetings come from her bestest cousin Charisma, the rest of her fabulous family and all of her friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fewer babies using Early Intervention program

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of children utilizing the CNMI's Early Intervention program is decreasing, a fact that is worrying the program's coordinator.

The number decreased from 58 in 2006 to 50 in 2007, said Suzanne Lizama, coordinator for the Public School System's Early Childhood Special Education. Numbers for 2008 will be ready in December.

Lizama said she is seeing a significant decrease in the number of babies from birth to 1 year old referred to the program.

"The child count numbers are dropping, and I'm not sure why," she said. "I'm trying to figure out what do I need to do to get out there. It's not that babies aren't being born. What are some better ways to reach them? What do I need to do?"

The Early Intervention Services program helps families diagnose and treat children from birth to 3 years old who might be experiencing developmental delays.

Lizama said the ideal time for referrals is after a baby's initial developmental check by a doctor or nurse. But she is noticing that parents are bringing in their children at age 2 for referrals.

"I often wonder why this wasn't caught earlier," she said of babies experiencing delays.

There are several milestones that babies should be meeting, and if they aren't parents should seek assistance. For example, she said, around 1 year old babies should be starting to stand up and taking steps. And around 1.5 years babies should be putting words together.

She said she is working with other local organizations to brainstorm how she can get the word out about the program. Some ideas are to conduct orientations for new food stamp recipients and present ads on radio and TV. In the past the program has used posters to try to get the word out, but Lizama said this is not always ideal.

"In all my years of experience, I don't think posters or brochures bring people in. It's word of mouth."

Families interested in the services can visit the Child Development Assistance Center. All test are conducted in the baby's natural environment, she said.

Yajiuma Plus films on Saipan

Yajiuma Plus was recently on Saipan to film a feature that will introduce Saipan and its marathons in a segment called "Running Map."

This morning news show introduces current news and information primarily from news headlines reported in daily newspapers. The piece is scheduled to run before the end of October. This popular program is broadcast in 1,959,982 households throughout Japan. The estimated in-kind ad value for this is an impressive US$975,238.

"We continue to thank those media outlets in our source markets that offer in-kind promotion of the CNMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The ongoing exposure assures that the CNMI is continually broadcast to potential tourists in these markets."

Sponsors of this media coverage are Marianas Resort & Spa, Saipan Botanical Garden, Tasi Tours & Transportation, Micronesia Woodcraft, SkiMar Enterprise, Pacific Development, Inc., Pacific Eagle Ent., and Dela Cruz Pastries. ***(MVA)***

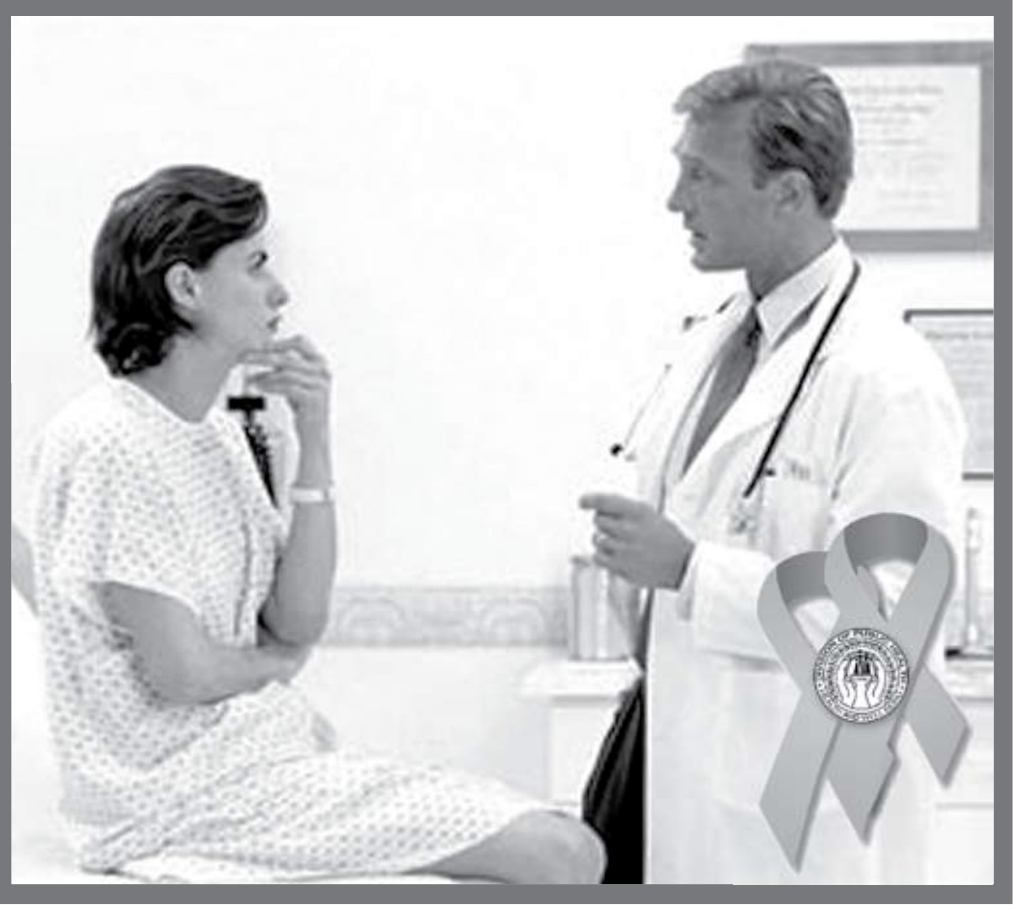
The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that ladies over 20 years old should start getting Clinical Breast Exams (CBE).

Early detection is your best protection!

CNMI Breast & Cervical Screening Program (BCSP)
236-8727/37
cnmibcsp@pticom.com

October is the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



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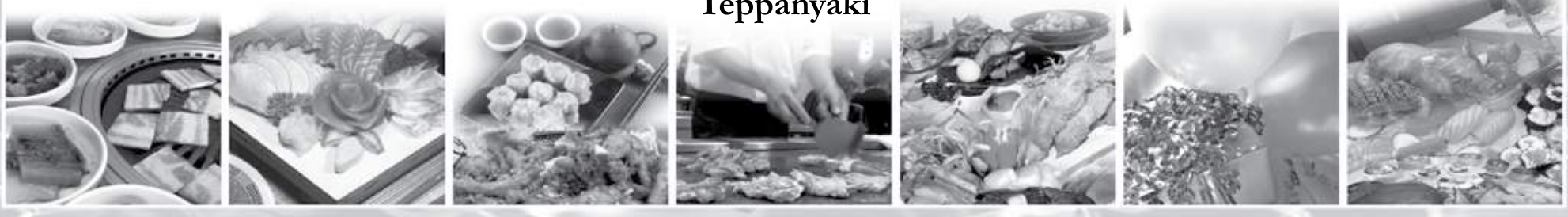

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FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
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Food, games, dancing at Japanese festival

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than a thousand people turned out yesterday to experience a little Japanese culture and cuisine at the 24th annual Japanese Autumn Festival.

The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas organized the event, held at Sugar King Park.

Twenty-five vendors took part in the event, selling food and toys, and organizing games. A garage sale was also held, said Hiroko Tenorio, a board member of the Japanese Society.

The day began with a Katori Shrine ceremony. Ten people from the Shrine in Japan came to take part in the ceremony, Tenorio said.

The Yasakoi Soran Dance Team from Hokkaido, Japan, once again took part in this year's festival.

Tenorio said she estimates there was an increase in the number of attendees over last year's 1,500 because of the beautiful weather.

"I think it's gone pretty well," she said.

She said the event is an opportunity for the CNMI's Japanese community to share their culture with others.

"As Japanese, we wanted to exchange our culture and cuisine to people here," she said. "It's also a chance for the Japanese [in the CNMI] to get together. Every year the festival gives us a chance to get together."

Takashi Nimura, who attends the event annually, said he enjoys gathering with other Japanese community members to share their culture.

"It's nice to have this once a year for the community to gather in one place," he said.

There are approximately 1,300 members of the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas.

KRISTI EATON

Bianca Hotel employees prepare Yakisoba at the 24th annual Japanese Autumn Festival at Sugar King Park yesterday.

$5K raised in Sister Remedios Walkathon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sidney Sablan, Merced Muna, and Isidro Sablan participate in last Saturday's Inaugural Sister Remedios Memorial Walkathon.

The Inaugural Sister Remedios Memorial Walkathon was a complete success with over 100 taking part in the event, raising a total of $5,000.

The walkathon, organized by Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center, was held last Saturday and had participants walking from Kilili Beach Park toward the traffic light intersection in San Jose.

Students from Sister Remedios who were joined by their parents and friends comprised majority of the participants.

While they need not have done so many still chose to turn around at the Quartermaster intersection and return to Susupe, making the event similar to the Joeten Charitable Foundation Walkathon.

Incidentally, the Joeten Charitable Foundation was the main sponsor of the Sister Remedios Walkathon.

In addition to its donation, the foundation also collected pledges amounting to over $1,000 from its employees to support the school.

Other donors provided prizes for the raffle ticket drawing held after the walkathon. DoComo Pacific donated a cellular phone and a beach chair; Pacific Islands Club donated waterpark passes for four; Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan donated Sunday brunches for two; Subway donated Subway coupons worth $140; and the Governor's Office donated 10 cases of water.

The Sister Remedios PTA Council hopes to make the walkathon an annual event to be held in mid-October to coincide with and to commemorate the birthday of the school's namesake, the late Sister Remedios P. Castro.

The council also extends its appreciation to all the parents, friends, sponsors, and most especially to the Joeten Charitable Foundation for the strong support given to the school.

"To everyone who participated and/or helped in any way, a big thank you and God Bless!" said the organizers. ***(PR)***

'Coral Triangle' countries to protect species

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Senior officials from six Asia-Pacific nations, whose territories include some unique and threatened marine species in the world, are about to sign a comprehensive draft plan to protect these natural treasures.

The six countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and East Timor—make up the Coral Triangle.

Tomorrow they are expected to finalise the Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Securities Plan of Action at a meeting in Manila.

The Coral Triangle, dubbed the Amazon of the Seas, covers a 5.7 million square kilometres of ocean, with 75 percent of all known coral species in the world.

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the RCGC's regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

Date : **Tuesday, October 28, 2008**
Time : **3:00 P.M.**
Location : **Tatachog Public Library Annex Building**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Minutes
IV. Chairman's Report
V. Old Business
1. Procurement
VI. New Business
1. Adoption of draft Rules and Regulations and Casino Application
2. Adoption of Personnel Regulation
VII. Miscellaneous
VIII. Adjournment

At anytime during meeting, the commission may move to executive session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao
Chariman

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Two ways to join:
1. Text your name and send it 25828 (CLUBV) & be one of the texter contestants. Exclusive for Saipancell Subcribers. $0.25 cents to be charged.
2. Come to Club V at 8:30 pm and be one of the contestants from the crowd
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Magic 100
$5 cover charge with two complimentary drinks
And Free Chaser for early party goers until 11:30 pm
Another exciting offer from the Grand!
For inquiries please 235-6616

NMC's future hinges on WASC's January decision

From Page 1

"This process is required as part of the procedure for show cause," she said. "It allows us to consider what institutions we have transfer agreements with."

Earlier this year, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges ordered NMC to provide reasons—or "show cause" 'why the college's accreditation should not be terminated. The show cause order set a timeline for NMC to submit reports to the accrediting agency.

On. Jan. 7, 2009, the WASC-ACCJC will have a meeting, where they will decide based on the recommendation of a visiting team whether to reaffirm or terminate NMC's accreditation.

If NMC's accreditation is terminated, there will be a semester transition period where the college will work with students to facilitate any transfers, Fernandez said.

"We will provide all the information and make it as convenient as possible," she said.

Fernandez said NMC has full course articulation with Hawaii Pacific University and Chaminade University, both in Honolulu. The college has partial articulation with Guam Community College, the University of Guam and the University of Hawaii.

Alexandra Silva, a first semester liberal arts student at NMC, said transferring could be difficult for some students.

"What's going to happen?" she said. "Some people can't afford all that and will have to get more scholarships."

Christina DLGuerrero, a second semester education student, said she has plans to transfer to a school in Oregon, but hopes her friends and family will still be able to attend NMC in the future. If NMC loses its accreditation it could make the transfer process to Oregon difficult, she added.

"How's that going to look for me if the school is not accredited?" she said. "That means I'll have to start over."

NMC officials submitted a report to WASC on Oct. 15, detailing the changes they are undertaking. Officials from WASC will visit the campus in November to examine the school's compliance with the report. The school has the option to submit a supplemental report in November, Fernandez said.

Both Silva and DLGuerrero said they are aware officials are coming, but didn't know they would be using that visit to help determine NMC's future. The school is working hard to make the necessary changes, DLGuerrero added.

" I see improvements with buildings," she said. "It's not much, but hopefully WASC will take that into consideration."

Fernandez said the school will be giving the campus "a bit of a facelift" before the WASC officials arrives, and will be educating students on the WASC report that was submitted.

KRISTI EATON

First graders from the William S. Reyes Elementary School perform a dance to Funky Town, as part of the school's United Nation's Day celebration, held Friday at the school grounds.

Public schools celebrate United Nations Day

From Page 1

Day celebration Friday.

Students at Koblerville Elementary, donning outfits depicting different countries from around the world, walked around the school grounds in a parade that included hundreds of handmade flags, and a Trojan horse made of boxes and construction paper.

"It's fun," said Franklin Lizama as he pulled the Trojan horse, a representation of Greece.

Each class had a different country, and throughout the week students learned about the country's culture and history.

Pizza was first created in Greece, Lizama said.

Katherine Lizama, a fourth grade teacher at KES, said she picked Ireland as her classroom's country because she has Irish blood. Two of her students wore the traditional peasant dresses, while other students wore white and green and carried mini Irish flags.

The day is important, Lizama said, "so students will be aware of the different cultures out here."

KRISTI EATON

Students take part in a parade at Koblerville Elementary School's United Nation's Day celebration. Each class represented a different country.

At WS Reyes Elementary, the morning began with students placing flags from various countries in the ground.

"It was good," said Jefferson Mateo, a fifth grader representing Switzerland. "We walked around and put flags in the grass. It was fun. Flags were put around like a globe."

The program continued with manamko performing traditional dances for the students.

"I enjoy it. The kids enjoy it. I love it. I'm happy today," Susanna Santos said after finishing her dance.

KRISTI EATON

Man'amko perform for students as part of WS Reyes Elementary School's annual United Nation's Day celebration.

Afterward, each grade level showcased their own dance, as parents and community members snapped pictures. The Carolinian Heritage group also performed.

Lynette Villagomez, principal of WS Reye, said the day was a reminder that although there are differences among cultures and ethnicities, everyone should love one another.

"Although we don't see students hating each other—there's no animosity among students—it's a good reminder for us to continue to love one another, and treat each other with respect, especially with what's going on around the world," she said.

This year's theme, "promoting peace in a multicultural school," was a good fit for the elementary that has students from 16 ethnicities, Villagomez said.

"That's a lot. There's a lot to celebrate," she added.

United Nations Day is held annually on October 24, the anniversary of the UN charter which established the organization in 1945.

Legislative Bureau gets a new director

From Page 1

appointment took effect on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008, and will remain in effect until Jan. 11, 2010.

Reyes has served as the bureau's deputy director since February 2006. Before that, she worked as chief of staff for Sen. Pete P. Reyes, who is now her husband.

Reyes was named to the post upon consensus of the leadership of the House and Senate. Senate President Reyes recused himself from discussion due to conflict of interest. He delegated Sen. Maria Pangelinan to represent the Senate in the talks about the LB appointment.

"Despite the many challenges faced by the Legislative Bureau, we have confidence that you possess the necessary qualifications, experience and leadership to fulfill the constitutional mandate to provide professional services to both houses of the Legislature," Pangelinan and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios told Reyes in a joint letter.

Reyes will receive a salary of $65,000 a year, an increase of $5,000 from her former salary as deputy director.

The legislative leaders said the position of deputy director of the Legislative Bureau will not be filled. Instead, the bureau will hire an economist as part of its permanent professional staff to serve lawmakers.

"I wish to thank the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate for their confidence in my ability to head the Legislative Bureau. I will do my best in carrying out my duties and responsibility," Reyes said of her appointment.

Fitial extends emergency status for CHC pharmacy

From Page 1

a disaster emergency on Sept. 25, due to a lack of a full-time pharmacist.

The emergency declaration is intended to allow the CHC to recruit a pharmacist for a salary over the existing $50,000 cap. The declaration was extended because the Legislature has not passed a law exempting pharmacists from the salary cap.

CHC lost its head pharmacist, Anthony Raho, when his contract was not renewed earlier this year, leaving the in-patient pharmacy with only one pharmacist and forcing it to close on weekends. Raho was brought back on board after Fitial issued the first emergency declaration.

The state of emergency allows the Secretary of Public Health and Department of Public Health to "adequately staff the Pharmacy Department at CHC with licensed pharmacists by whatever means necessary to ensure that the pharmacy remains open," according to the declaration.

The last full-time pharmacist employed at the hospital, Lorraine Liwiski, resigned effective Oct. 8. A part-time pharmacist is employed on the weekend.

Raho earlier said that the low salary cap for pharmacists and other heath care professionals hinders the CNMI's health care system.

Raho, who has worked at the pharmacy for 12 years, said the salary cap is inhibiting the hospital from hiring pharmacists.

In the U.S., entry-level pharmacists start at a salary of $105,000 to $120,000, he said.

"It's a no brainer, we just can't compete," he said, adding that the United States is also experiencing a lack of pharmacists but pharmacies are addressing the situation by raising salaries 5 to 6 percent.

'Improved water system is exposing old pipes'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The strong pressure brought about by the improved water system has caused the old pipes to leak, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña.

"We solved one problem and then we have another," Muña said.

He said the leaking pipes are a big challenge to CUC which has been trying to make sure there is enough supplies and people to address the issue.

Muña said it is his understanding that 65 percent of customers on Saipan are now getting water on a 24-hour basis.

He said the capacity of water reservoirs has been enhanced by the various improvements undertaken.

"We're getting close to getting sufficient supply and sufficient pressurization to the system all over the island," he said.

Muña said the strong water pressure, however, has exposed the fragility of the water distribution system such as the old and rusty pipes.

"We are finding a lot of these old pipes with the new increased pressurization are failing. We are getting more leaks out there," he said. "Leaking is being exposed now more than before."

To address the leak problem, Muña said they just get to them as soon as CUC receives reports of one.

"We just need to go out there and repair them," he added.

DPS sections to relocate

Beginning Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, the Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section and Criminal Investigation Bureau will be relocating to the building behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Susupe.

The Traffic Section and CIB will only occupy a portion of the building, which formerly housed the Residential Substance Abuse/Minimum Security Complex.

Also on Monday, the Police Academy will be moving to the Kagman Community Center, while the Fire Academy will be relocated to the Kagman Fire Station.

In a statement issued Friday, DPS said the sections are moving to the new sites because the building they currently occupy—the former court house—is in poor condition and unsafe for DPS employees to work in.

"Moreover, the building is without electricity due to a transformer blowing out earlier this week. Electricity will no longer be connected to the building," the DPS statement said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Live-fire training on Farallon set

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Oct. 30, from 3:30pm to 7:30pm, according to the Emergency Management Office.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

REQUEST FOR DEVELOPER PROPOSALS FOR KOBLERVILLE/CAPITOL HILL HOMESTEAD PROJECT

The Department of Public Lands is requesting PROPOSALS (RFP) from QUALIFIED FIRMS (Developers) FOR THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING OF LOW COST HOUSING UNITS IN KOBLERVILLE AND CAPITOL HILL HOMESTEAD LOTS. THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

PHASE 1: 100 QUADRUPLEX UNITS in Koblerville AND 39 QUADRUPLEX UNITS ON Capitol Hill.

PHASE 2: 100 QUADRUPLEX UNITS IN KOBLERVILLE CONSISTING OF FIFTY EACH TWO BEDROOMS UNITS AND FIFTY EACH THREE BEDROOM UNITS.

THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS ON-SITE WATER AND POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, DRAINAGE FACILITIES, ROADWAYS, SIDEWALKS, AND LANDSCAPING.

Upon completion and acceptance, the Department of Public Lands will work a negotiated payment plan with the winning bidder. The Department of Public Lands will market the homes to potential buyers (qualified homesteaders) and will coordinate and assist with financing for the homeowners through private banks. As each home is completed and homeowner loans are closed, the payment of bank proceeds will be authorized to pay for the construction and transfer of ownership of the residential homes and lots to the buyers.

A PREBID CONFERENCE WILL BE CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. AT DPL'S CONFERENCE ROOM AT ITS MAIN OFFICE IN DANDAN. Questions from parties CONCERNING THE DETAIL OF THE PROJECT will be entertained AT THAT TIME.

Bid Proposals:

BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 28, 2008. Bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond in a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the base bid, executed by the bidder or principal and by a surety company RECOGNIZED AND CERTIFIED BY THE COMMONWEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER. SUCH BOND SHALL be forfeited to the Owner should the bidder fail to execute a contract within ten (10) days after Notice of Award. All bids must be in writing, sealed and marked ("Koblerville Homestead Development"; NO FACSIMILES WILL BE ACCEPTED). Bids are to be submitted as to both phases and as a lump sum total. Bids must state that they will remain open for thirty (30) days.

Contractors or members of their teams shall not communicate with the Department's Selection Committee, employees of the Department or the Secretary of the Department except as stipulated per the requirements of this notice. Failure to abide by this requirement may result in rejection of the Contractor's submittal. The Department of Public Lands reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to re-advertise for bids when it is in the best interest of the Department of Public Lands.

John S. DelRosario, Jr., Secretary

Opinion

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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Olympic hangover

Last week, China made permanent the single most conspicuous gesture toward political liberalization it offered before the Beijing Olympics: a modest easing of controls on reporting by foreign journalists. The relaxation hasn't always been observed in practice, and it doesn't apply in sensitive regions such as Tibet, where foreign reporters are still banned. It has had little impact on Chinese media or the information available to the Chinese population. Still, the communist regime trumpeted the step. "Opening up is very important. I believe in the past year and a half, China has improved a lot in this regard, and I believe it will do an even better job in the future," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Maybe Beijing really plans more reforms—or maybe it just hoped to stop the measure adopted Thursday by the European Parliament, which granted its prestigious Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Hu Jia, the best known of several Chinese dissidents who were imprisoned before the Olympics. Hu was sentenced in April to 3 1/2 years in prison for the crime of telling the European Parliament, and the world, that China's Olympic extravaganza was "built on a base of grievances, tears, imprisonment, torture and blood." He is living proof that human rights in China worsened rather than improved thanks to the Games and that the regression has yet to be reversed.

With its characteristic heavy-handedness, the government of Hu Jintao did its best to head off Hu's recognition. Its ambassadors dispatched letters, paid visits and made phone calls to European Parliament deputies; the common theme was a threat that awarding the prize to Hu would damage relations between the European Union and China. A similar campaign was probably waged against the Swedish members of the Nobel committee before this month's award of the peace prize, which in the end went to a Finn.

To their credit, however, the European deputies bridled at Beijing's pressure. "This prize is awarded in Strasbourg, not in Beijing," said assembly President Hans-Gert Poettering. The parliament's Green faction said it even better: "Awarding the Sakharov prize to Hu Jia puts human rights back at the heart of E.U.-China relations following China's failure to keep its pre-Olympic promises on raising human rights standards." Easing controls on foreign journalists, while welcome, doesn't change that record.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Some expert views on what should happen next

Special to The Washington Post

The current (and gaping) leadership vacuum must be filled. We need individuals who can frame the stakes of this moment for the millions—perhaps billions—of people who now have vital interests in a stable system of global capitalism, leaders who can explain what has happened (as FDR did so effectively in the midst of the 1933 banking panic) and lay out a way forward. Such leadership would have to be based on a new call to responsibility, personal and collective. The current crisis has been marked by an overall suspension of such responsibility — on the part of executives who played too fast and loose with fiduciary obligations (and then took home ridiculous pay packages after destroying enormous value), on the part of households that have been buying more than they can afford for years (against better judgment) and on the part of public officials who have generally been afraid to look hard and long at what was happening in the casino of capitalism.

—Nancy Koehn, historian, Harvard Business School

Experts agree that U.S. house prices still have to fall another 10 or 15 percent to bring them back to a sustainable pre-bubble level. The danger is that prices may keep falling to much lower levels, hurting the financial institutions and reducing household wealth and spending.

Stopping this very deep downward spiral of house prices requires reducing the risk that homeowners with positive equity today will have incentives to default as house prices fall toward pre-bubble levels. A program of partial mortgage-replacement loans provided by the government to homeowners who now have positive equity could do that. Taking steps to halt the overshoot of house prices may no longer be sufficient to bring recovery to the financial markets and the broader economy, but I am convinced that they are necessary.

—Martin Feldstein, president emeritus of the National Bureau of Economic Research and economics professor at Harvard University

What happens next should be up to the public. It's striking to note that this is not even an option here. We saw that with the financial bailout. It was immensely unpopular, and a huge cry of outrage compelled the House to vote it down (at first). In a functioning democratic society, the reaction wouldn't have been just shouting "no" as loudly as possible. Labor unions and other groups would put forward their own proposals. The minimal answer to the problem of an uninvolved public is to accompany pouring liquidity into the market with voting rights. Organized public pressure has worked before — for example, during the 1940s or the '60s, when many policies were adopted for the benefit of the general population as a result of mass popular mobilization. Today, there's been such success in depoliticizing society, in atomizing people, in breaking down popular organizations, that we're just not in a position to carry out the steps that would be taken in a functioning democratic society. But they are not unimaginable.

—Noam Chomsky, MIT

We need a new regulatory framework that ensures fair treatment of consumers and much higher standards of market conduct. All financial enterprises should be regulated, and institutions of similar size and similar products should be regulated in roughly the same way. Close the loopholes that allow institutions to choose a charter or a name that nets them a lower standard of regulation. Build a new regulatory service and culture. Abandon the bureaucratic alphabet soup of compartmentalized agencies, redesign a unified, coherent regulatory service and train the regulators of the future to staff it.

—Gene Ludwig, U.S. comptroller of the currency, 1993-98

What should be done next? The same thing we should have done first: start refinancing mortgages to avoid as many foreclosures as possible. FDR provided an excellent model in 1933, the last time we faced such a tsunami of prospective foreclosures. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) bought shaky mortgages from banks at well below their face values and refinanced them into new mortgages.

A modern reincarnation of the HOLC could and should buy some mortgages directly from banks, just as in the 1930s. But many mortgages today have been securitized, so a modern-day HOLC would have to purchase many old mortgages out of securitized pools. This changes the mechanics, involves more lawyers and makes the process more complicated. But it does not change the basic idea.

To get this done quickly, we should start with legislation that went into effect this month instructing the Federal Housing Administration to insure new mortgages (with lower face values) rather than grant new mortgages. Unfortunately, that legislation was badly underfunded. But the new Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) explicitly instructs the Treasury secretary to use some of the $700 billion for refinancing mortgages. So with a few simple amendments to the current legislation, and a few hundred billion from the TARP, we could create a HOLC-like institution.

—Alan Blinder, vice chairman of the Federal Reserve from 1994 to 1996 and economics professor at Princeton

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Brace yourselves: Power's shifting, but not how you'd expect

By BILL EMMOTT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Historians identify changes in eras in terms of decades, even centuries. Commentators are a much more impatient bunch: A few weeks of turmoil on Wall Street, a year of the credit crunch, and they've formed an instant consensus that a new era has begun, that points have turned or tipped or gushed over a watershed.

This consensus, on both sides of the Atlantic, has formed around four themes. One is the idea that the dividing line between the market and the state, between conservative economic thinking and progressive intervention, will now shift decisively away from the market. A second is that America's status as a free-market beacon and provider of the dollar standard will decline sharply. A third idea is that this Western economic crisis is going to confirm, and probably accelerate, the shift in economic power to Asia, and in particular to China. And when you put those three themes together, you get a fourth: that authoritarian nations, where the state runs the economy and where the political leaders are instinctively hostile to America, are going to become stronger, both internally and as role models.

The haste with which this agreement has been reached should make us suspicious. It's time to wonder whether all four of these themes may be wrong. In fact, it's time to wonder whether the ultimate consequence of this economic turmoil could be the precise opposite of what's expected.

Consider each of the agreed-upon themes in turn. The last big financial crisis—in fact the biggest stock and real estate collapse—to have occurred in any large industrial economy since 1929 was the one that began in Japan in 1990-91. Did that lead to a decisive shift in the balance between the state and the market? Yes, it did: It pushed Japan far more toward the market and away from state intervention and regulation.

The reason, in part, was that the collapse destroyed the Japanese bureaucracy's reputation. (In the United States, it is bankers' reputations that have suffered, along with Alan Greenspan's.) But the biggest reason was pragmatic: The cost of rescuing the financial system and supporting the economy was so high that it left the annual budget deeply in deficit. With gross government debt at 180 percent of GDP (Washington's is now about 90 percent) there was little choice but to cut the state back.

In the United States, the cost so far of recapitalizing the banks, taking control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and so on has been smaller than the Japanese expenditure: 5 percent or so of GDP here vs. 20 to 24 percent in Japan. That extra debt and a higher deficit will extend government, but it will also constrain other spending by the new administration and Congress. There will almost certainly be a fresh fiscal stimulus package after Jan. 20, perhaps focusing on rebuilding infrastructure. But other projects will have to be put on hold. In the medium term, the net effect on the government's financial role may turn out to be neutral, unless a potential President Obama succeeds in persuading Congress to finance his scheme for universal health care.

In Europe, however, the extra debts and deficits being taken on in Britain, France, Germany and elsewhere are already larger than those in the United States and are being piled onto already overloaded public finances. There, the Japanese outcome is a real possibility: Rather than extend the state, these extra burdens could in fact give a powerful push to pro-market, state-trimming reform. Europe had already been moving in that direction under leaders such as Nicolas Sarkozy in France and Angela Merkel in Germany; this crisis may well accelerate that process considerably.

Yes, regulation of banking and other financial firms is likely to increase, as it has in Japan. But that is quite a technical matter of capital-adequacy rules and the treatment of derivative securities, not the stuff of new eras and paradigm shifts.

What of the second theme, of a post-American world with a shrinking role for the dollar, analogous to the demise of sterling and of Britain's economic and financial status after 1945? The first point to be made is that the dollar's role in global foreign-exchange reserves was much smaller in 1990 (50 percent of global reserves) than it is today (about 63 percent), so even a fresh decline in its use would not be path-breaking. The second is to ask what the alternative is: the euro, the currency of a region that has gone into recession more quickly than the United States, and whose banks are just as troubled? And not, certainly, China's yuan, unless that country's leaders are poised to surprise us all by making it convertible and reducing controls on capital flows, both of which are necessary before a currency can take on reserve status. By default, the dollar is likely to keep its leading role. Whether the United States will again be a beacon of economic policy and performance depends on how bad its recession proves to be and on how well it adjusts to a new period of higher household savings and lower consumption and debt. It depends, too, on how American politicians respond to rising unemployment and whether Congress tries to move sharply away from fairly open trade and toward protectionism. That's what happened in the recession of the 1980s. Membership in the new World Trade Organization will make that much harder, however, as will either a President Obama or a President McCain, both of whom profess to be multilateralists.

China will certainly be an issue for the new Congress and administration: Its extraordinary current-account surplus of 10 percent of GDP, its slowing but still rapid growth (down to "just" 10 percent a year from 12.9 percent), its accumulation of capital in its sovereign investment funds could all provoke resentment, envy and fear. But will its global status and role really, as the third theme claims, be strengthened by this Western economic crisis?

It could be: If China's leaders were to abide by Western recommendations and revalue the yuan while also increasing public spending to stimulate the domestic economy, the country could become a crucial source of import demand for the world. That, however, requires China's domestic interests to become neatly aligned with global interests, for it is those internal interests with which its leadership is principally concerned. And even reflation and revaluation would not make China an American-style buyer of last resort, because its economy is German-size, not American-size—$3.2 trillion as opposed to $13.8 trillion for the United States.

Moreover, China's leadership has other preoccupations besides seeking loftier global status. Thanks to its capital controls, its savings surplus and its state-controlled banking system, China is well insulated from the Western financial crisis (unlike India, where companies' foreign debts are high and private banks are getting squeezed). Its low-end exporters, however—cheap labor and high-volume industries such as toys and textiles—are already in trouble due to both rising wages and a higher valuation for the yuan since 2005. Other export industries now look set to lose business as Western markets shrink. Meanwhile, public concern about pollution, combined with political fears about dependency on imported resources, is bringing about a new emphasis on efficiency and, to some extent, tighter environmental controls.

China needs to move upmarket, clean itself up, deal with declining industries and try to keep creating enough jobs to prevent social unrest. That's more than enough to make it prefer to avoid taking on international responsibilities, aspiring to leadership or any such grand, epoch-making gestures. They might be something to think about for the 2020s, '30s or '40s, perhaps, but not for this economic cycle.

China is, though, Exhibit No. 1 for the fourth theme: the revival of authoritarianism. But in that role, it's an impediment to change, not a source of it. The real examples of new braggart authoritarians are Vladimir Putin's Russia and Hugo Chavez's Venezuela, countries that flirted with democracy in the 1990s but then thought better of it.

They are also prime beneficiaries of another recent phenomenon: the boom in oil and commodity prices that began in 2002. So they are best thought of not as winners in the current economic crisis, but as potential big losers. The price of crude oil has already fallen dramatically from its peak of $147 a barrel in June to less than $75 now. The Western recession looks as though it will combine with slower growth in Chinese demand for oil to push prices even lower, unless producers can agree to cut supplies. The prices of metals and other natural resources are also tumbling fast.

This is good news for countries that consume natural resources, including both the United States and China. But it should also remind us of another recurrent truth about economic crises: It's political instability that turns a crisis into a disaster, bringing about real change. During the 1997-98 financial crisis in East Asia, the most dramatic and painful effects were felt in Indonesia, not because of its economic weaknesses but because the crisis led to the overthrow of its longtime dictator, Suharto, and then to several years of chaos.

If we look for the Suharto of this crisis, for a place where economic stress could produce a political explosion, we're unlikely to find it in the United States or Western Europe. It's more likely to be found in poorer countries such as Pakistan or, likelier still, in countries whose economies and regimes have become dependent on high commodity prices: Russia, Venezuela, some African nations, perhaps even Iran. In those places, if prices collapse, all political bets are off. All told, the consequences of economic and financial turmoil are far less predictable, and far less pat, than the current consensus seems to hold.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Change in the global economic picture might differ from what's expected. The author writes that he believes power won't shift to U.S. rivals.

Emmott is former editor of the Economist and the author, most recently, of Rivals: How the Power Struggle Between China, India and Japan Will Shape Our Next Decade. *Author's e-mail: bill@billemmott.com*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲84° ▼77°	▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°

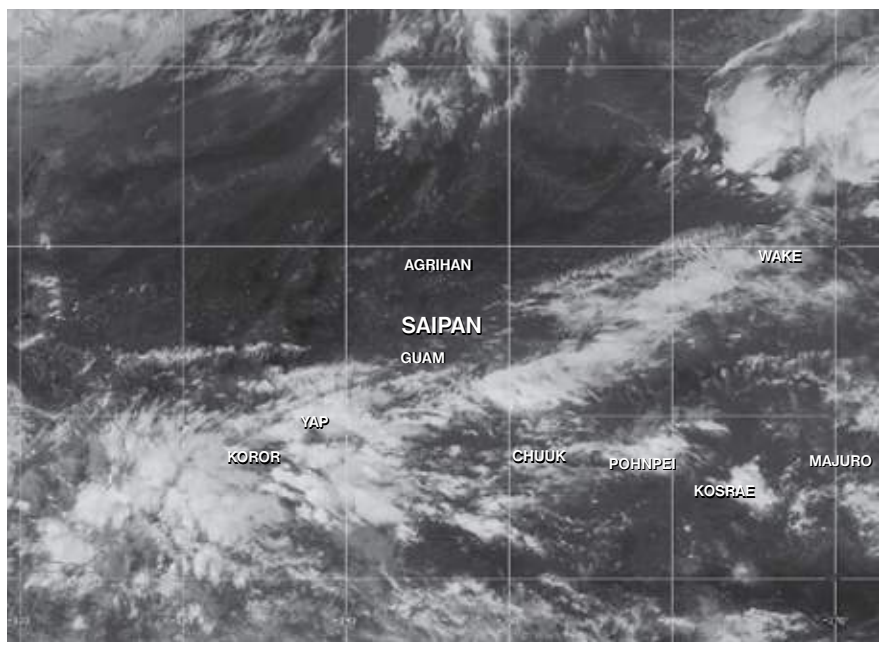
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼71
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲58	▼48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲81	▼70
London	Rain	▲56	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼56
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼54
Miami	Showers	▲82	▼72
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼49
Osaka	Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Paris	Rain	▲61	▼48
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼45
Rome	Cloudy	▲69	▼51
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼38
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered trade-wind showers are found southeast of Guam between 10N and 13N from 147E to 153E. Surface troughs embedded in trade-wind convergence east and southwest of Koror and Yap are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 130E to 134E and between 3N and 11N from 135E to 143E. This area includes Yap. A shear line extends eastward from 25N160E to 25N170E then curves northeastward beyond 180 at 26N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of 24N from 163E to 177E. Scattered showers are occurring near Pohnpei, Kosrae and south of Majuro within 70 miles of a line from 8N158E to 6N165E to 3N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:43AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:46AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
5:49PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:55PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:12AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:12AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:12AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:38AM	3:53PM
Monday	4:27AM	4:29PM
Tuesday	5:17AM	5:07PM
Wednesday	6:08AM	5:47PM
Thursday	7:00AM	6:30PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

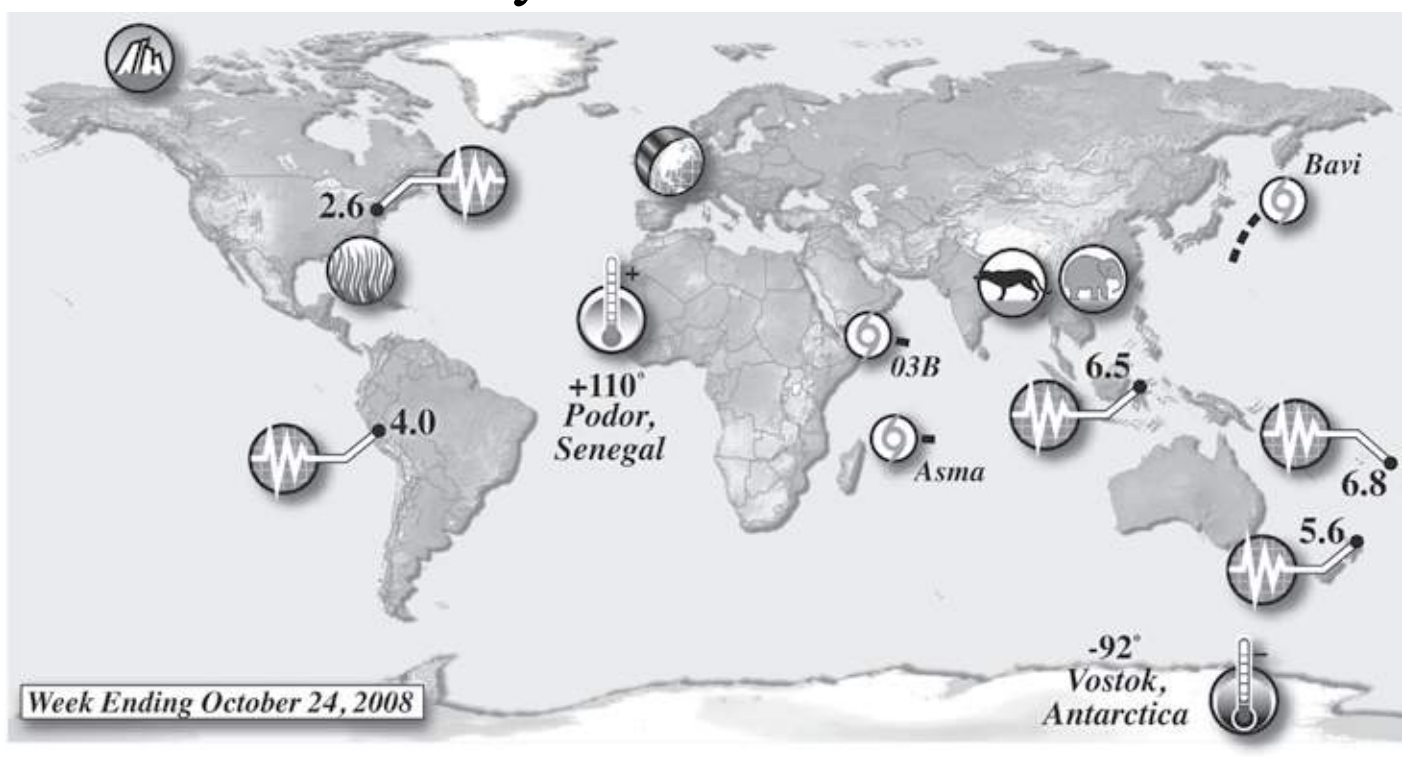
Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Swamped Wetlands

Deer in the Everglades are being forced out of their habitat or are becoming trapped in some of the worst flooding to ever strike the wetlands. A summer of heavy rainfall across South Florida ended a protracted drought and brought water levels in the famed "River of Grass" to the highest on record. The water has driven deer and other species from the scattering of tree islands, which normally provide a dry haven, onto the few stretches of canal levees that are now the only footing that remains above water. Similar conditions in 1982 and 1995 decimated the Glades' white-tailed deer, bringing its population down from the thousands to the hundreds. The natural flow of the Everglades southward to Florida Bay has been blocked since a highway known as the Tamiami Trail was constructed from Miami to the Gulf Coast in the 1920s. Plans to replace a section of the elevated roadway with a 3,000-foot causeway are being considered, along with culverts that would also allow water to flow beneath parts of the highway.

Warming Habitat Loss

Wildlife experts are warning that rising sea level due to global warming is driving India's Sundarban tigers out of their mangrove habit into surrounding villages, where attacks on humans are on the increase. The Sundarban wetlands along the India-Bangladesh border are slowly being eroded by the rising tide. This means that the tigers' most common prey, such as crabs, fish and crocodiles, is shrinking. A combination of poaching and loss of habitat has brought the number of tigers down from about 500 in the late 1960s to between 250 and 270 currently, according to wildlife officials.

Record Autumn Warmth

Fall weather across the Arctic has been warmer than during any other autumn on record, according to U.S. experts. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published the statistic, adding that the warmth is due to more ocean water being exposed to sunlight after the near-record melt of Arctic ice over the summer. NOAA researchers found that the polar region was 9.0 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal over the past two months. The temperate autumn comes on the heels of two years that have seen all-time records shattered. In a warming trend that began in the mid-1960s, 2007 was the warmest year in the Arctic on record, followed closely by 2008 in second place. NOAA points out that the climate change is also bringing more greenness at high latitudes as shrubs begin to grow farther north on landscapes that were once rooted in permafrost.

London Blushes

A mysterious pink glow appeared in the sky above London for just under an hour on the evening of Oct. 20, leaving tourists and U.K. capital residents craning their necks and scratching their heads. The Daily Mail reports that the glow appeared to hover over buildings before breaking up and slowly disappearing. A spokesman for the country's meteorological office said the pastel vision was most likely due to the lights of the city reflecting off a cloud. "If you have very high cloud, as we did last night, you tend to get odd 'splodges' of low cloud that will reflect the pink or sometimes orange-pink lights of the city from all angles, and stand out from the darkness of the sky," the unnamed Met Office spokesman told the newspaper.

Tropical Cyclones

A rare Arabian Sea cyclone, designated 03B, brought locally heavy rain to the Horn of Africa and parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

■ Tropical Storm Asma passed over western parts of the Indian Ocean while Tropical Storm Bavi churned the western Pacific.

Earthquakes

A 6.5 magnitude quake in Indonesia's Central Sulawesi Province was so powerful that people who happened to be standing near the epicenter were tossed around.

■ Earth movements were also felt in northern New Zealand, Tonga, central Peru and Pennsylvania.

Elephant Rehab

An elephant cured of a heroin addiction has been deemed unfit to live in the wild despite kicking the habit, according to Chinese zookeepers. Four-year-old Xiguang, or "Big Brother," had been used by illegal traders along the China-Myanmar border. The smugglers apparently fed him bananas coated with heroin to keep him under control. After entering treatment on Hainan Island, the bull elephant cried and made trumpeting noises once his doses of heroin were no longer available, the Beijing News reports. Veterinarians eased the withdrawal symptoms during a three-year treatment with methadone injections five times stronger than those used to treat humans. Despite being cured of his addiction, animal experts determined that Xiguang's habits and body odors had changed to the point where he will have to remain in wildlife parks for the rest of his life.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Man urinates on dog after owner spurns sex

MANITOWOC, Wis. (AP) —A 36-year-old man took revenge on his roommate after she refused to have sex with him by allegedly urinating on her dog, police said. Police said the man was arrested early Thursday morning on tentative charges of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct related to domestic violence. According to police reports, the man was drunk when he argued with the woman. After she resisted his advances the man went to the basement where he urinated on her dog and the floor. Police said the argument continued, and when the woman's sister stood up in defense the man pushed her into a wall. He then allegedly stormed from the home and punched out a window.

Ohio woman gives birth to triplet granddaughters

CLEVELAND (AP)—Not only has a 56-year-old Ohio woman given birth to triplets, but they're her own granddaughters. Jaci Dalenberg, of Wooster, carried the babies as a surrogate for her daughter, Kim Coseno. The two identical twins and their sister were born by Caesarean section Oct. 11 at the Cleveland Clinic's Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights and are still in the hospital's care. They were more than two months premature and each weighed less than three pounds. A Cleveland Clinic news release says infants and grandmother are all doing well. According to a Clinic spokesman, Dalenberg offered herself as a surrogate when Kim Coseno and her husband, Joe, were waiting to adopt. The couple used in vitro fertilization, and embryos were implanted in Dalenberg's uterus.

Hogzilla? 200-lb wild boar struck by car in Mass.

LANCASTER, Mass. (AP) —This was no ordinary road kill. Massachusetts State Police say a 200-pound Russian wild boar was euthanized after being struck by a vehicle on a road in Lancaster earlier this week. That was a big surprise to state wildlife experts. They say although some wild boars are known to live in northern New England, there never has been a native population of feral swine in Massachusetts. Hunter Chester Hall said he was offered the carcass for coyote bait.

Good Housekeeping

Upscale macabre

By DAVID A. KEEPS
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

For home-decor retailers, Halloween may be the silver lining in this month's economic storm clouds. In a survey released by the customer loyalty firm Corporate Research International, 75 percent of consumers who participate in Halloween activities said they planned to spend about the same amount or more than they did last year.

"It's not a one-night thing anymore," said Chief Executive Mike Mallett, who added that he started buying Halloween goodies in September. "It's a decorate-and-celebrate holiday that grows massively year after year."

Carol Liguori, director of merchandising for Grandin Road, said the catalog and online retailer offered nearly 100 fall decorating products and shipped $579,000 worth of fall decor (including Thanksgiving items) to Southern California alone. "And when the holiday falls on a weekend, you can expect to see an increase in sales by 25 percent," Liguori said.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Z Gallerie's metallic skull ($24.95) emulates the crystal-and-diamond museum piece created by Damien Hirst.

Pottery Barn entered the Halloween market earlier this decade and has raised its count of offerings to 30, nearly double that of last year, said Laurie Furber, senior vice president of merchandising.

"We see searches on our Web site as early as July," she said.

Gone are the days of cardboard skeletons and plastic jack-o'-lanterns. These days, Halloween decorations are made from natural fabrics, glazed ceramics, etched glass, lacquered wood and cast metal. At Z Gallerie, a new Halloween collection is released each fall and often stays on the shelves past Christmas.

"A lot of it can be used all year long," said marketing spokesman Gordon Andahl. "Many items from our black and glittered Halloween collection would work great for a black-and-white-themed party or New Year's."

Financial and environmental concerns also have changed the Halloween market, Pottery Barn's Furber said.

"People want to invest in stylish things that have lasting value," she said. "They don't want to buy stuff that they will throw away. There's a big opportunity when the economy gets tough. The feel-good holidays make you happy to throw parties and decorate with products that put a smile on your face."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ornately tooled leather box by Hidecore with raven motif ($2,100) and vintage folk art skeleton puppet ($5,500) at Blackman Cruz in Los Angeles, (310) 657-9228.

Clockwise from top right: A skull that opens to reveal a clock ($34.95) from Z Gallerie; two cast bronze skulls ($1,500 each) from Blackman Cruz in Los Angeles; black skull candles ($16 and $16.95) from Pottery Barn; one of a pair of bone-shaped candles ($10.95) from Z Gallerie.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Black cotton runner with beaded spiders and glow-in-the-dark web print ($39.99) from Pottery Barn. Spider web lantern candle ($19.95) at Crate & Barrel.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cast-aluminum spider web tray ($59 a pair) from Grandin Road. Jeweled spider pillbox ($30.95) at Z Gallerie.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A bronze incense burner ($750) turns batty in the hands of Blackman Cruz's BC Workshop collection.

Skull-imprinted lacquered tray with silver-leafed edges ($24); crossbones metal pillar stand ($19); and cast-metal fangs that can serve as place-card holders or napkin rings ($20), all at Pottery Barn.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The northern side of the 208-year-old White House.

New president means new look for Oval Office and beyond

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Every presidential election brings change to the 100-room, 208-year-old White House, which functions as an office, a setting for official ceremonies and entertaining, a museum and a private home.

Soon after the election, the president-elect and his wife are invited for a meeting. "As part of this, the outgoing first lady usually gives the incoming first lady a tour and talks about the spaces and how they use them," says William Allman, White House chief curator. Transition books prepared by the chief usher list available furnishings from the more than 40,000 pieces in the White House collection. "They also ask if they would prefer an antique bed or just a queen-size modern bed," Allman says.

It all happens quickly. When George W. Bush was getting ready for his inauguration on the morning of Jan. 20, 2001, he got a phone call from then-White House chief usher Gary Walters with a crucial question: Which of the rugs in storage did he want for the Oval Office?

Until the 1970s, presidents changed little of the decor in the nation's most powerful office. Now the Oval Office is redecorating project No. 1. In 1993, Little Rock designer Kaki Hockersmith was installing gold curtains in the room while Bill Clinton was being inaugurated at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Preserving and refreshing the White House has been the job of the dozens of families who have lived there. George and Laura Bush give a rare tour of the place Nov. 26 on a History Channel program, "The White House: Behind Closed Doors." The historic State Floor, with its iconic Blue, Green and Red rooms as well as the spaces off the lower Ground Floor Corridor are public rooms overseen by the Committee for the Preservation of the White House. The top two floors become the private living quarters of the first family.

As the nation awaits the new chief executive, neither party appears to have a candidate for the unofficial post of White House decorator. "I don't think any family is ever prepared for the public attention that is focused on them when they move in here," says former White House curator Betty Monkman. Will it be the Southwest style of the McCains or the urban mix of the Obamas? Let the redecorating begin.

Redoing the House

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The White House reflects every family that has lived there and is always undergoing preservation.

The costs of maintenance and furnishings are covered by a variety of sources. Congress has appropriated $1.6 million a year for the repair and restoration of the White House, according to Sally McDonough, press secretary to first lady Laura Bush. As part of this appropriation, the president is granted $100,000 for refurbishment and maintenance of the family quarters every four years. (This figure was $50,000 until 1999.) Sometimes friends and supporters make private donations.

The president and his family often pay for things themselves. In addition, the White House Historical Association, a nonprofit educational institution, provides money for preservation. Its two sources of income, according to association president Neil Horstman, are the $33.8 million White House Endowment Trust, which is used to refurbish White House public rooms and conserve collections, and the $6 million White House Acquisition Trust, which is used to acquire fine and decorative arts for the permanent collection.

RONALD AND NANCY REAGAN

OVAL OFFICE RUG
The terra-cotta rug by Stark Carpet of New York cost $49,625 and was paid for by an anonymous donor. It featured a four-foot presidential seal in brown, gold and green with radiating rays.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS
The major renovation and redecoration of several dozen rooms in the family quarters upstairs took 10 months. A total of $822,641 was raised from private sources to pay for it. Many antiques were pulled out of warehouses. The movie theater was redone and plumbing updated. An exterior renovation was begun.

WHITE HOUSE CHINA
The Reagans ordered 220 19-piece Lenox place settings in scarlet and gold for $210,399, paid for by a private foundation. Has the seal of the president in the middle of the service plate.

OVAL OFFICE DESK
The Resolute desk, constructed of oak timbers from the HMS Resolute, was given to Rutherford B. Hayes by Queen Victoria in 1880.

DECORATOR
Ted Graber of Beverly Hills

GEORGE H.W. AND BARBARA BUSH

OVAL OFFICE RUG
His blue-gray rug had the presidential seal in shades of gold. It was made by Hokanson of Houston and the $28,550 was paid for by private donations.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS
Four rooms were redone in the private quarters: sitting room, sun porch, a former exercise room that became a guest bedroom and the Treaty Room, which serves as the president's private office. The Bushes took worn, Kennedy-era green felt wall covering off the walls and made the room a lighter, airier space.

WHITE HOUSE CHINA
The Bushes added to the flatware collection by ordering duplications of the late-19th-century gilded silver flatware in the collection for formal dinners. Made by Kirk Steiff of Baltimore.

OVAL OFFICE DESK
Bush chose the walnut partner's desk he had used when he was vice president. Used Resolute desk in his private office upstairs.

DECORATOR
Mark Hampton of New York

BILL AND HILLARY CLINTON

OVAL OFFICE RUG
His bold, dark blue rug had a large center medallion of the presidential seal. The $38,000 rug was made by Scott Group in Grand Rapids, Mich., and given by an anonymous donor.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS
There was a major overhaul of more than 25 rooms, including work on two floors of public rooms as well as the private quarters and Camp David. Swags and Victoriana were installed in the Lincoln Bedroom and Sitting Room. A Blue Room redecoration included new wallpaper, upholstery and carpeting. The State Dining Room was refurbished with new carpet, curtains and upholstery. A running track was installed around the inside edge of the South Lawn.

WHITE HOUSE CHINA
The Clintons ordered 300 12-piece Lenox yellow-banded place settings, paid for with a donation of $240,000 from the White House Historical Association in honor of the White House bicentennial. Service plates are decorated with 24-karat-gold images of the White House.

OVAL OFFICE DESK
Resolute.

DECORATOR
Kaki Hockersmith of Little Rock

GEORGE W. AND LAURA BUSH

OVAL OFFICE RUG
He chose a rug woven with a blue seal and gold eagle in the middle with golden rays emanating out and an outer border of laurel branches. It was made by Edward Fields of New York. The $61,000 cost was paid by private donations.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS
The Lincoln Bedroom and Sitting Room were redone using a scholarly interpretation to make it look as it might have in Lincoln's time. The Cabinet Room and Green Room were refurbished. There were improvements to the theater, Vermeil Room, library and Press Briefing Room. Energy efficiency was stressed by installing compact fluorescent light bulbs, low-water-consumption toilets and faucets, and LED exterior lights.

WHITE HOUSE CHINA
The Bushes ordered large silver-plated serving pieces for buffet dinners and holiday entertaining, including round and oval chafing dishes, multitiered stands, punch bowls and cookie trays.

OVAL OFFICE DESK
Resolute.

DECORATOR
Kenneth Blasingame of Fort Worth

SOURCES: *"The White House: An Historic Guide;" Sally McDonough, first lady's press secretary; William Allman, White House curator; Betty Monkman, former White House curator; Neil Horstman, president, White House Historical Association; www.whitehousehistory.org*

KITCHEN MAGIC

Blushing Apple Butter

A flavorful cholesterol- and fat-free spread. Yummy on toast or bagels.

3 3/4 pounds Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
1 1/2 cups apple cider or apple juice
1 cup cranberries
3 strips (3 inches by 1 inch each) lemon peel
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 1/2 cups sugar

1. In 5-quart Dutch oven, heat apples, cider, cranberries, lemon peel and lemon juice to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low; simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes or until apples are very soft, stirring occasionally.

2. Stir in sugar; heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to medium; cook, partially covered, 1 hour or until apple butter is very thick, stirring occasionally (mixture may sputter and splash, so be careful when stirring).

3. Spoon apple butter into blender in small batches and blend (with center part of blender cover removed to allow steam to escape) until smooth.

4. Spoon apple butter into jars or crocks for gift-giving. Store tightly covered in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. Yields 4 1/2 cups.

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Weatherstripping 101

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: This is my second year in an apartment with drafty windows. The landlord said it was OK for us to do whatever we like to stop the cold air from rushing in. I'm tired of putting up crinkly, ugly plastic sheets, though. Is there an alternative?—Blair J., Malden, Mass.

A: You have some additional options besides plastic sheeting. Weatherstripping can stop drafts while allowing windows to be opened or closed as usual. Three types of material are available: metal, vinyl or felt. They are attached one of two ways -- with brads (very small nails) or by adhesive attached to the back of the strip. Vinyl or felt stripping is easier to work with, while metal stripping is much more durable.

Since you're in a temporary living situation, I'd recommend you stick with vinyl weatherstripping, particularly compressible foam strips. These strips come on a roll that costs less than $10, and they have an adhesive backing so that all you have to do is peel and stick. Run a strip along the bottom of the window sash—the part that meets the frame when you close the window. Be sure clean the adhesive area well and let dry. If the outdoor temperature is below 45 degrees Fahrenheit, you'll want to heat the sash bottom for a couple of minutes with a hair dryer to ensure the strip will stick well.

If your windows rattle and have drafts coming in all around, add tubular vinyl stripping. This is a roll of tubing, sometimes with a flat strip protruding from the side. It's applied to the outside of the window along the edges. Hold the strip flat and taut against the bottom and sides of the sash while a partner carefully nails the tubing to the sash (use only brads to attach, and don't nail to the sill).

If you can't access the outside of the windows because you're in an upper-level apartment, run felt weatherstripping along the interior sides of the window sash, folding over and along the top and bottom if possible. The felt strip may have an adhesive back, but should also be attached with brads spaced about 3 inches apart.

HOME TIP: Drafty windows are a major source of heat loss in homes, yet can usually be insulated in a couple hours for just a few dollars—an investment well worth making.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

The Good Life

Impersonations: It's a question of character

By PAUL FARHI
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Frank Caliendo plays George W. Bush as an overconfident frat boy who tries to pass off nonsensical pronouncements with a smirk, a chuckle and an ingratiating twist of his eyebrows.

"Saturday Night Live's" Fred Armisen does Barack Obama in a halting cadence, sketching someone so cautious and controlled that he's keeping his personality under lock and key.

And Hillary Clinton? "SNL's" Amy Poehler has portrayed her as a woman smiling through thwarted ambition and barely suppressed rage.

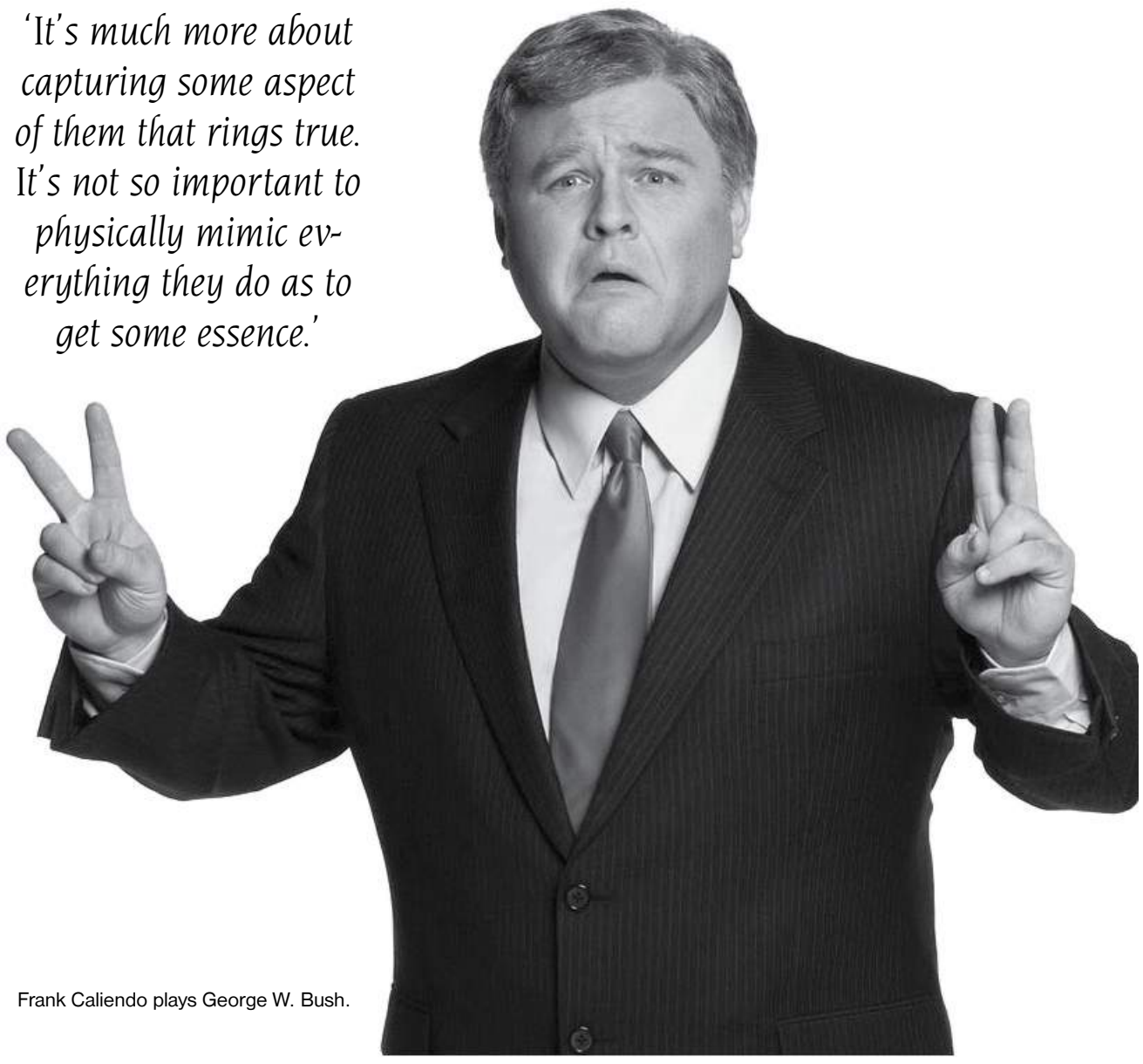
Political impersonations are an elusive thing, but when they are dead-on—when the comic take on a subject rings so right—the impression can nearly define a candidate. Think of Dana Carvey's George Bush the elder, or Darrell Hammond's Al Gore, to cite two of "SNL's" greatest hits, and sometimes the real person starts to seem like an imitation of the imitation.

This is, of course, high season for political impressions. "SNL" has scored huge ratings with its takes on Obama, John McCain et al. (Saturday night, in a kind of impersonation hall-of-mirrors, its guest host was actor Josh Brolin—who portrays President Bush in the new Oliver Stone biopic "W."—and Tina Fey reprised her Sarah Palin alongside the real Palin).

Meanwhile, the lesser-seen "Mad TV" on Fox and Caliendo's "Frank TV" on TBS are madly riffing on political figures, too. And legendary impersonator Rich Little, who turns 70 next month, still performs regularly.

With so much satire, and so little time (many political impersonations lose much currency after Election Day), here's a brief tour of the art form from the top practitioners:

'It's much more about capturing some aspect of them that rings true. It's not so important to physically mimic everything they do as to get some essence.'



Frank Caliendo plays George W. Bush.

1 It's the little things that count.

Hammond, "SNL's" indispensable impressionist, develops his impersonations by breaking his subject's voice down by age, dialect, tone, pace, speech impediments, among other factors. But he never studies the voice alone. Hammond looks at video images to capture such things as posture, facial expressions and distinctive gestures.

The key, he says, are the vowels. "All consonants sound the same," Hammond says. "If I had a tape of us, my consonants would sound just like yours. But you pick different vowel sounds than I do. Even just one (vowel change) can make someone sound different."

Once you've got that part down, he says, then you have to "italicize" it: exaggerate it, stretch it, blow it up for comedic effect.

Hammond has done dozens of famous people (Jesse Jackson, Sean Connery, Chris Matthews), but some of his best-loved impressions are of political figures. Hammond does a brilliant Dick Cheney, and Bill Clinton is still his most requested character during his stand-up shows. His characterization of Gore ("Lock box!" "Under mah plan ... ") during the 2000 campaign was so devastating that Gore's aides showed it to the candidate to help him *not* act that way after his first debate with George W. Bush.

2 It's not just the voice.

Caliendo's malleable facial features are a big part of his act (check out his squinty-eyed Robert De Niro or his mischievous Robin Williams, for example).

"Imagine drawing a triangle from your eyebrows to the point of your chin. That's where people see the impression, in that triangle. That's where I see it," says Caliendo, who develops impersonations by watching himself in the mirror.

Skilled impersonators get the body language right, too. Hammond punctuates his Clinton with a signature physical move—biting his lower lip to convey (smarmily) his sincerity.

"It's easiest when you're doing someone people love or hate," Caliendo observes. "There's an emotional tie, and all you have to do is amplify that thing that bothers people or triggers that reaction."

Adds Little, who's been impersonating presidents since the Kennedy administration: "It's like imitating your teachers when you were a kid. People love to poke fun at authority and to bring them down to size."

3 Good material can overcome a bad impersonation, but even a great impersonation can't overcome bad material.

Dan Aykroyd impersonated Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter to such hilarious effect in the '70s that few people cared that Aykroyd had a mustache ("SNL" executive producer Lorne Michaels tried to get him to shave, to no avail). Jon Lovitz didn't sound much like Michael Dukakis, but he played a classic Dukakis just days before the 1988 election against George H.W. Bush ("I can't believe I'm losing to this guy!" whined Lovitz-as-Dukakis).

Chevy Chase's Gerald Ford might have been the most anti-impression impression of all. Yet Chase's pratfalls during "SNL's" first season largely painted Ford as a bumbler, and might have lent, in some small way, to Ford's defeat in 1976. And Poehler has never captured Clinton's voice or look (outside of wearing a pantsuit) this year. But her Clinton held up even with the real Hillary standing right next to her. Some pundits even credit those Poehler-as-Clinton skits—which argued that the media were slighting Hillary and favoring Obama's campaign—with toughening up coverage of Obama.

"It's much more about capturing some aspect of them that rings true," says Michaels, who co-founded "SNL" 33 years ago. "It's not so important to physically mimic everything they do as to get some essence."

When casting about for an Obama imitator last spring, Michaels auditioned "four or five" non-"SNL" players for the role, but rejected all of them. Then Marci Klein, one of the show's producers, suggested Armisen.

Although Armisen bears a faint resemblance to Obama—and his eventual selection elicited some criticism because Armisen is not black—Michaels liked what he saw. "Some of the others were technically great, but what Fred was doing seemed to have something strong and benign," Michaels says. "It was the funniest take" on the man.

Armisen, who has impersonated such figures as Prince and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the show, says he studied Obama by listening to a recording of him reading his memoir "The Audacity of Hope." He also consulted with Hammond.

But Armisen's inspiration, oddly, was Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, whom Armisen has also portrayed on the program. "If you've ever seen (Jobs) introducing a new product onstage, he makes it into pure entertainment. It's pure art," says Armisen, 41. "He has these dramatic pauses. He believes what he's talking about, like it's almost religious. I see the same thing in Obama."

4 A great catchphrase goes a long way.

Dana Carvey defined George H.W. Bush with just two phrases ("Nahgonnadoit!" and "Wouldn't be prudent") and Ross Perot with one ("Can I finish?!"). He did so by repeating the catchphrases maniacally.

Did Will Ferrell need to say or do more to conjure George W. Bush after he said "strategery"? And just about anyone can suggest President Ronald Reagan with a slight turn of the head and a simple, "Well ... "

While a catchphrase doesn't an impersonation make, it's striking that no one has quite defined Obama and McCain this way yet.

On the other hand:

—Political impersonations, like politicians and presidents, tend to evolve.

"The guy on the campaign trail isn't the guy you'll see in office," Caliendo says. "Once you're in office, it all changes. People are focused on you. You're not entirely in control of that environment. The people running for office can't let their guard down. But as president, they might start acting normal again."

So count on a new comic take to emerge during an Obama or McCain administration.

Little says Reagan never was offended by his imitators and actually praised his impersonation, just as Bush the elder enjoyed Carvey's imitation of him.

Reagan "said to me, 'Rich, you do that so well you ought to be president. You can carry on for me when I'm gone.' And I said: 'But Mr. President, I don't want to be president. And besides, I'm Canadian.' "

"Well," said Reagan, momentarily becoming an impersonation of himself, "I can fix that."

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

Which scene is slightly different from the other two?

1

2

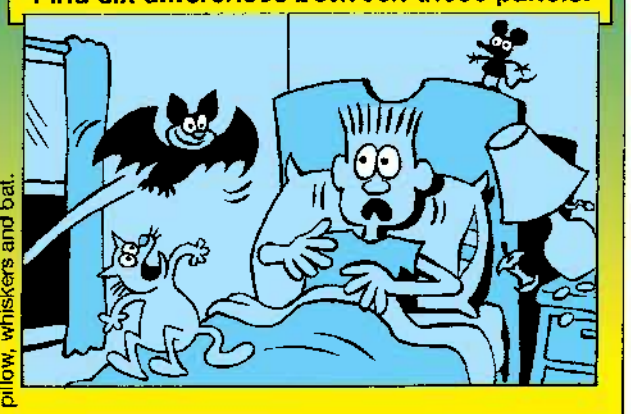
3

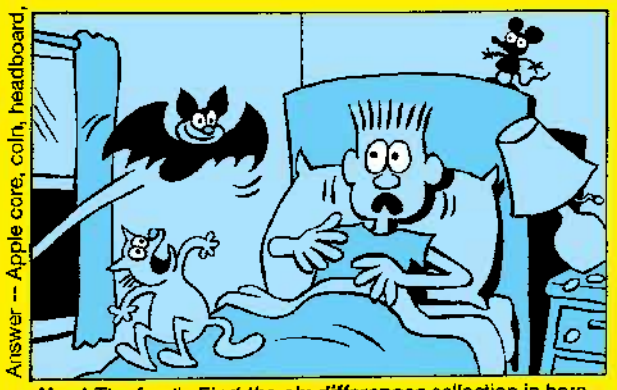
Answer -- Number one.

Rachel Rabbit says Reeky Rat is stealing electricity from her house. She suspects he attached a splitter to her power source and buried a wire all the way to his trailer. Reeky says that is ridiculous. Slylock Fox told Rachel to go home and await instructions. What will Slylock tell the rabbit to do that will help solve the case?

Solution -- Slylock will tell Rachel to flip off her home's main power switch. If Reeky's electricity shuts down, then his criminal deed will be exposed.

Find six differences between these panels.



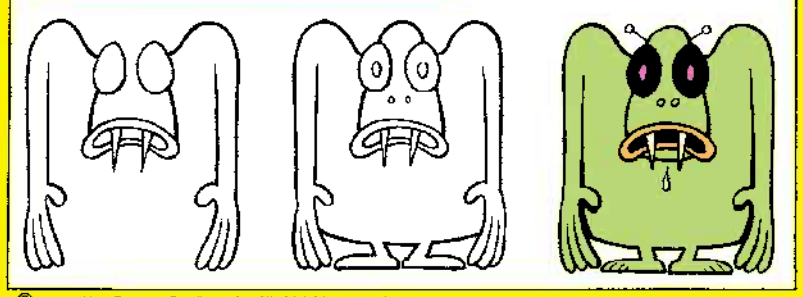


Answer -- Apple core, coin, headboard, pillow, whiskers and bat.

New! The fourth ***Find the six differences*** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

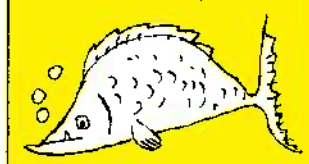
HOW TO DRAW a creepy alien

WEBER 10-26



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Stuart Singleton, age 15, of Oakland, CA



Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

The 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats from Bracken Cave in Texas can eat 250 tons of insects in a ...

a) day
b) week
c) month
d) year

Answer -- a)

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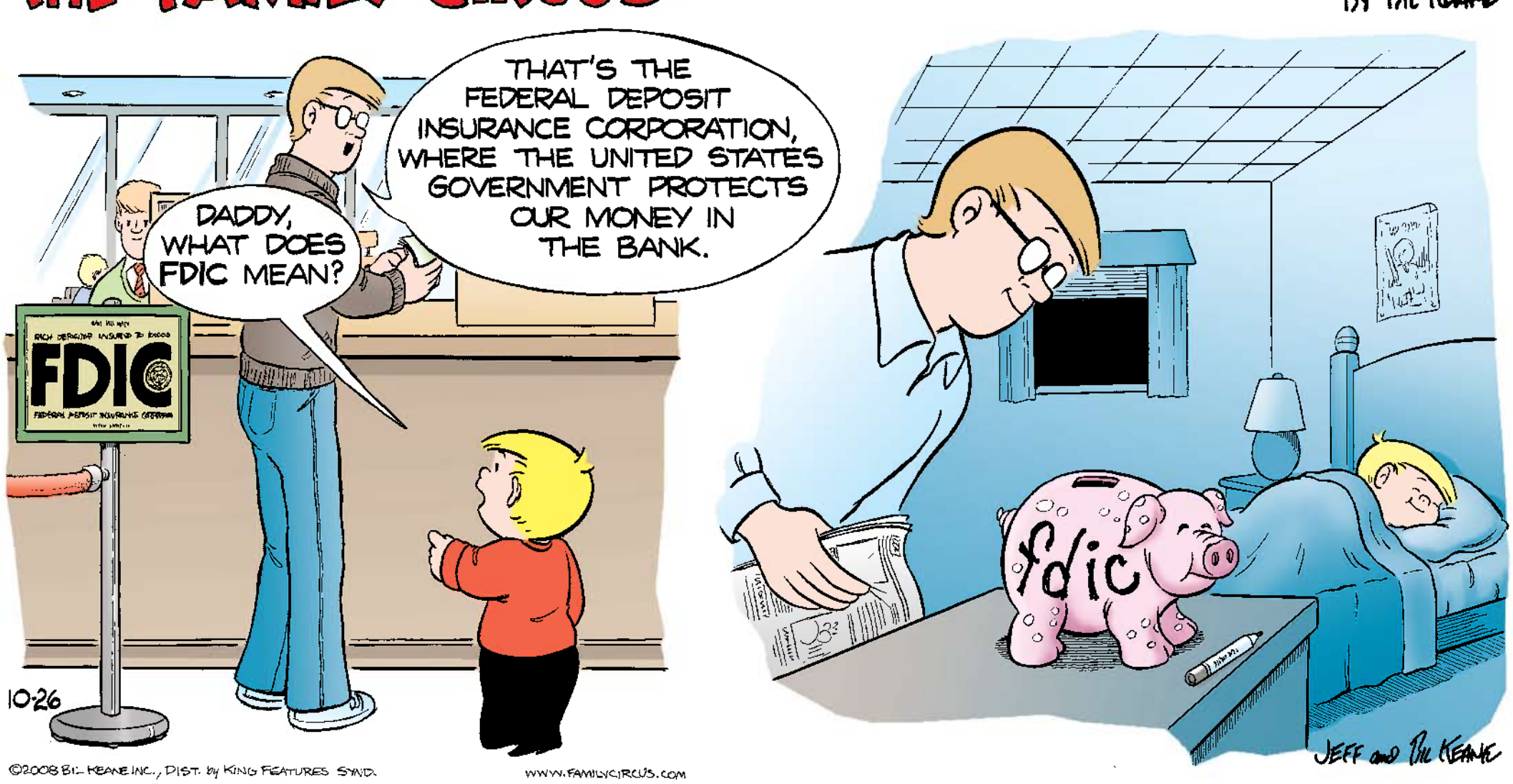
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


DADDY, WHAT DOES FDIC MEAN?
THAT'S THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION, WHERE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROTECTS OUR MONEY IN THE BANK.
FDIC
10-26
fdic
JEFF and Bil KEANE

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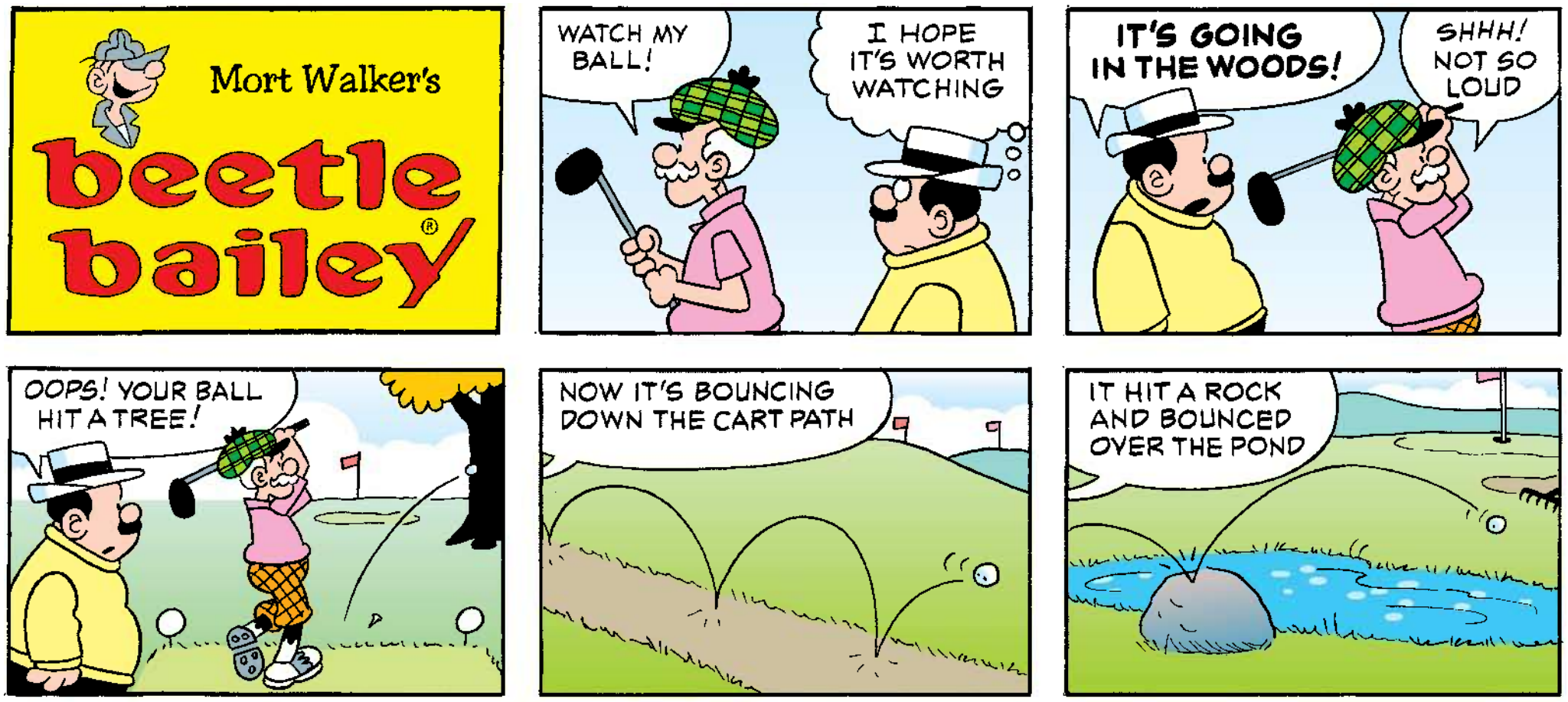
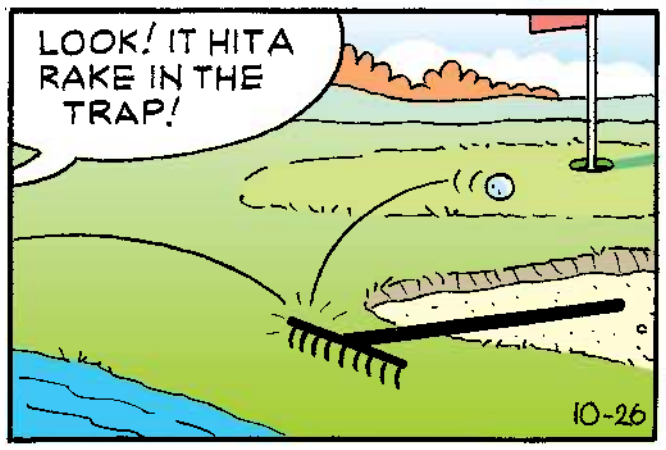
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

Mort Walker's beetle bailey®


WATCH MY BALL!
I HOPE IT'S WORTH WATCHING
IT'S GOING IN THE WOODS!
SHHH! NOT SO LOUD
OOPS! YOUR BALL HIT A TREE!
NOW IT'S BOUNCING DOWN THE CART PATH
IT HIT A ROCK AND BOUNCED OVER THE POND



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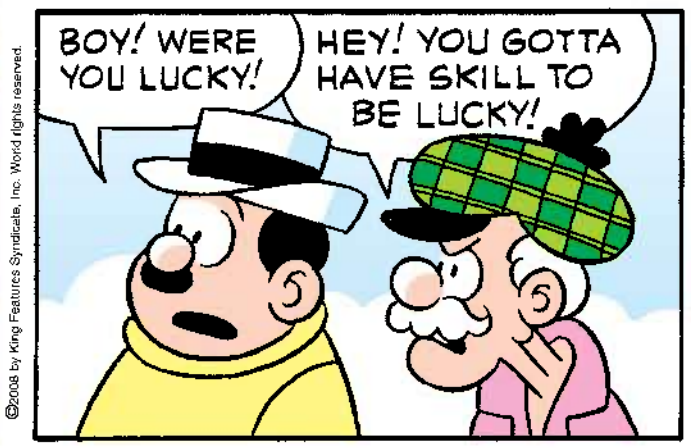
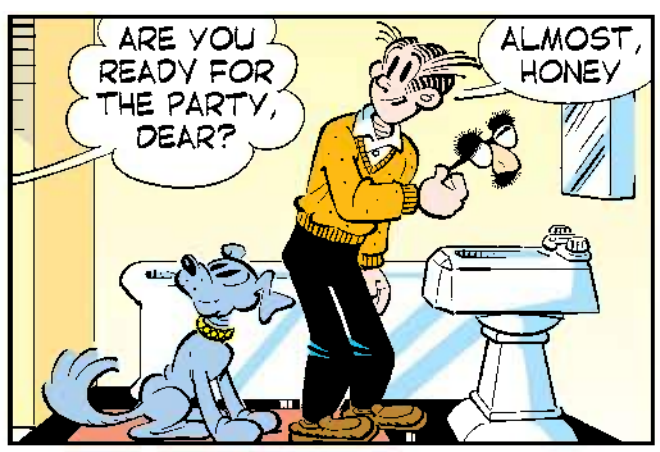
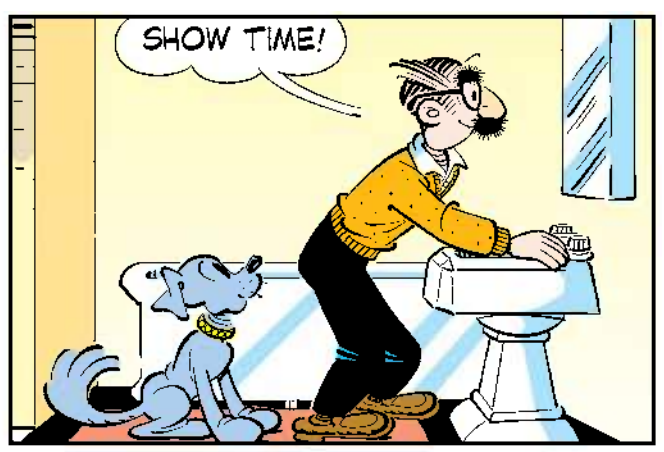
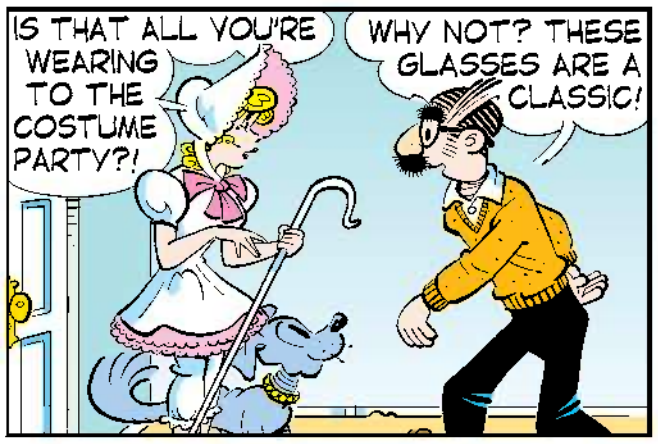


BLONDIE

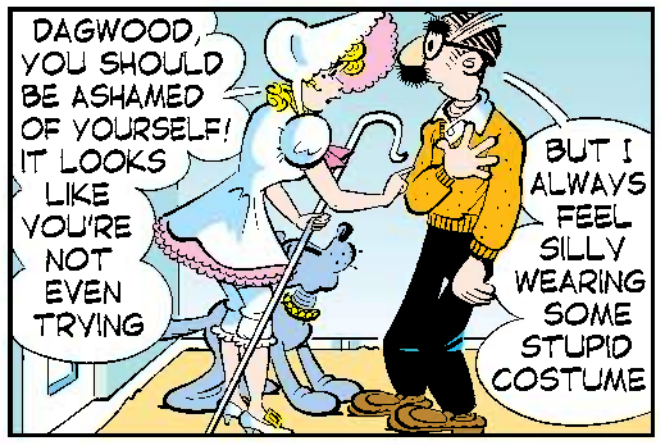
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

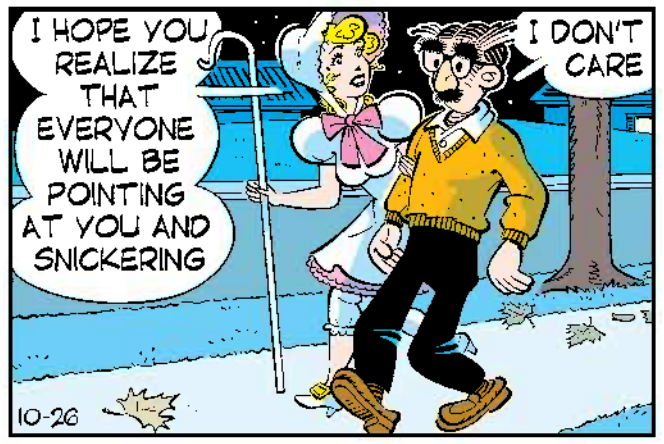


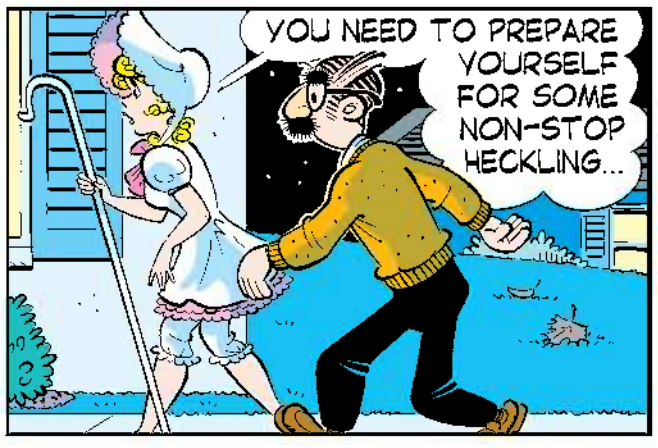




www.blondie.com


DAGWOOD, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING
BUT I ALWAYS FEEL SILLY WEARING SOME STUPID COSTUME





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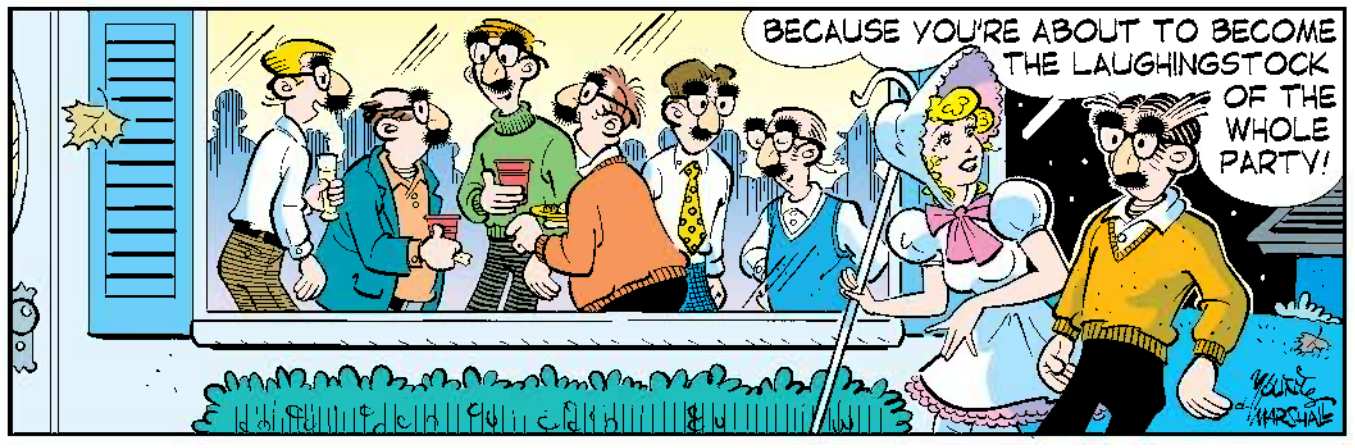

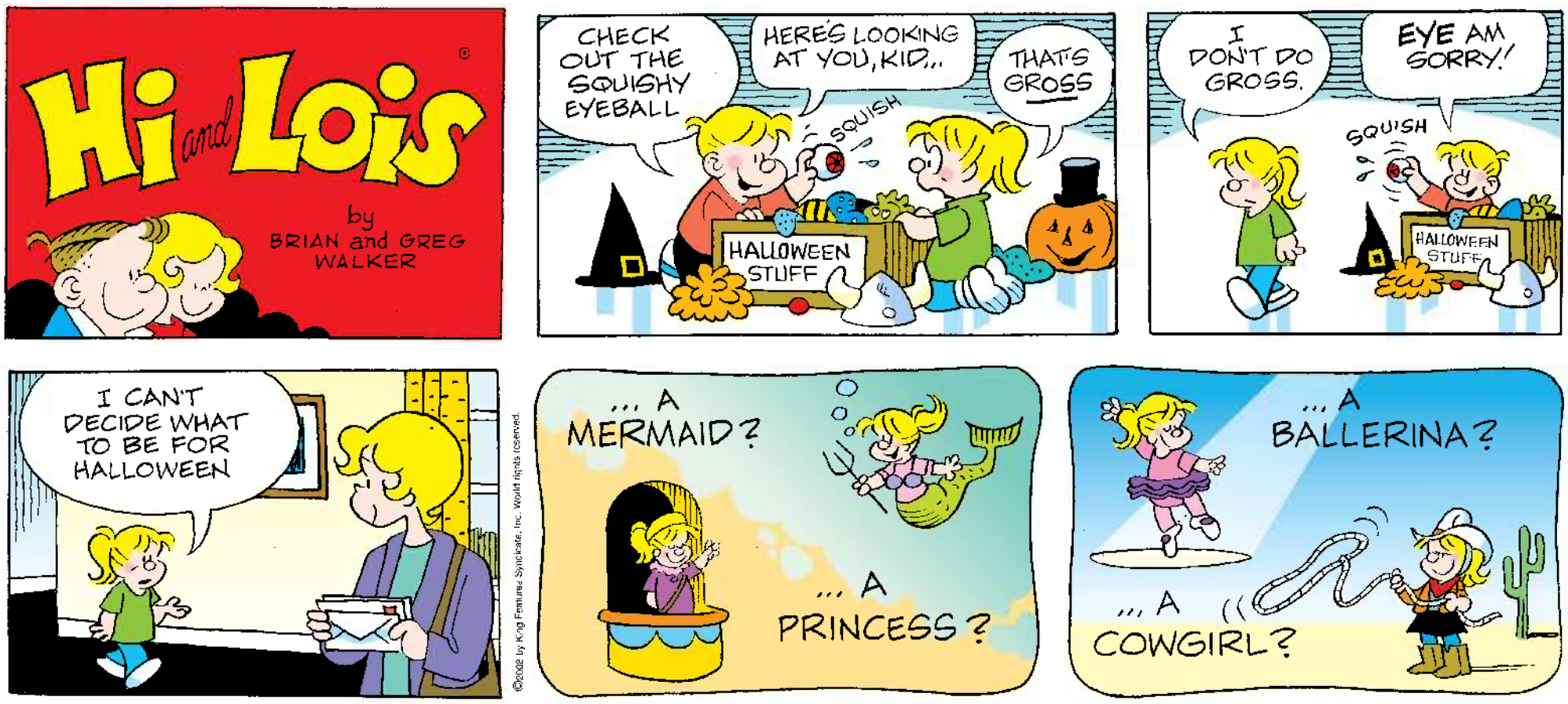
Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER
CHECK OUT THE SQUISHY EYEBALL
HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID...
SQUISH
THAT'S GROSS
HALLOWEEN STUFF
I DON'T DO GROSS.
EYE AM SORRY!
SQUISH
HALLOWEEN STUFF
I CAN'T DECIDE WHAT TO BE FOR HALLOWEEN
...A MERMAID?
...A PRINCESS?
...A BALLERINA?
...A COWGIRL?
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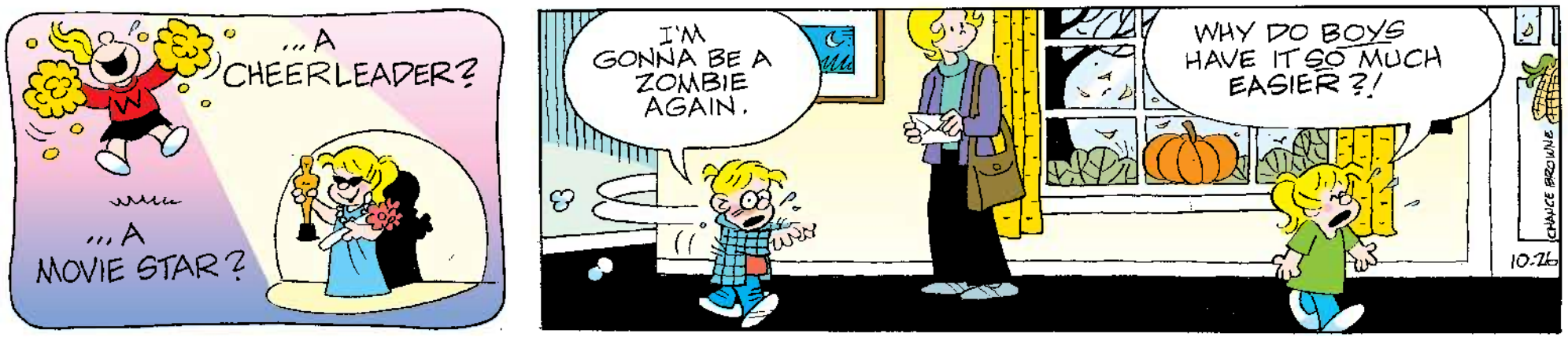
...A CHEERLEADER?
...A MOVIE STAR?
I'M GONNA BE A ZOMBIE AGAIN.
WHY DO BOYS HAVE IT SO MUCH EASIER?!
CHANCE BROWNE
10-26
Hank Ketcham
Dennis the Menace
Role Model
MARGARET SAID WE SHOULD COME OVER TO HER HOUSE FOR SOME FUDGE COOKIES!
CAN'T SHE JUST LEAVE 'EM ON THE PORCH?

WHAT ARE YA GONNA BE FOR HALLOWEEN?
I DON'T KNOW YET.
BUT I WANNA BE SOMEBODY REALLY SCARY THIS YEAR!
YA MEAN LIKE DRACULA?
NAH!
FRANKENSTEIN?
SCARIER!
THE WOLFMAN?!
EVEN SCARIER!
H-HI, M-MISTER WILSON!
GRRRRRR....
HMMMMMM....
MOM, DO WE HAVE ANY BAGGY GREEN SWEATERS LYIN' AROUND?
DENNIS, YOU WOULDN'T!
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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A colleague might offer to open a door for you professionally. But before you walk through it, be sure this "favor" isn't attached to an obligation you might find difficult to discharge.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your creativity, your persistence and your reliability could lead to a major career shift. Be sure to use that other Taurean trait, your practicality, when discussing what the job offers.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A changing situation might require some adjustments you might not have been prepared to make. However, flexibility in this matter could be the best course to follow at this time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're in a period of fluctuating moods, which is not unusual for the Moon Child. Your emotions stabilize by the 26th. Meanwhile, try to hold off making major decisions until then.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) That keen sense of perception helps you hunt down those minute details that others overlook. And, of course, your Leonine ego will accept the expected praise with good grace.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be careful not to be confrontational when raising a work-related issue. Better to make a request than a demand. And, of course, be prepared to back up your case with facts.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your ego might be hurt when a colleague turns down your offer to help. But accept it as a rejection of your offer, not of you. A friend from the past could re-emerge by week's end.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A flow of positive energy turns a work project you didn't want to do into something you actually love doing. Now, take that attitude into your social, intimate life—and enjoy what follows.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Working hard to meet your professional goals is fine. But don't neglect your private life, especially where it concerns your more cherished relationships.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) "Patience" remains the key word in dealing with an emotionally sensitive situation involving a close friend or family member. Help comes your way by week's end.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) With new information coming in, it's a good time to rethink some of your goals without taking suggestions from others, no matter how well-meaning they might be.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Making progress on your project is relatively easy in the early part of the week. A problem could arise midweek. But all goes swimmingly once it's resolved.

BORN THIS WEEK: Holding fast to your principles, no matter what, inspires others to follow your example.

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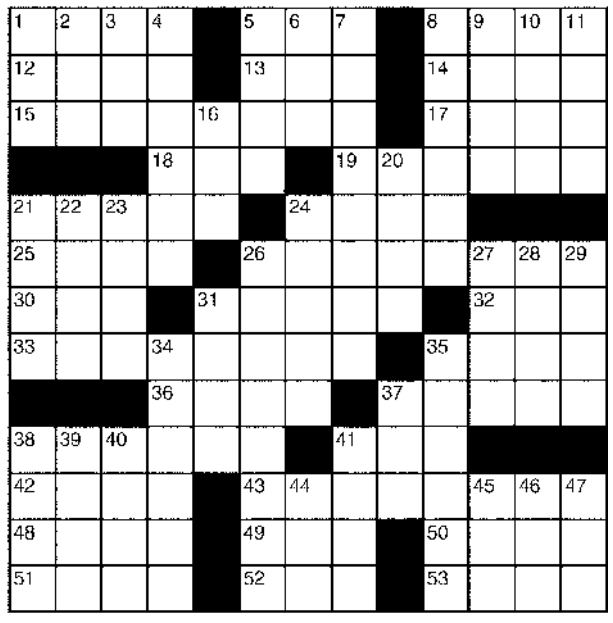
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Runs for exercise
5 Recede
8 Moolah
12 Satan's specialty
13 Meadow
14 "— take arms against ..."
15 National pastime
17 Tolerate
18 A billion years
19 Through eternity
21 Pupa-to-be
24 Elbow counterpart
25 Lotion additive
26 MySpace alternative
30 Picks out of a lineup
31 Aviator
32 Remuneration
33 Courtroom agenda
35 Crumbly earth
36 Stare stupidly
37 Quiz answer
38 Fee
41 Help
42 Hurled
43 Indy entries
48 Wading bird
49 Ordinal suffix
50 Teen's woe
51 Agrees tacitly
52 Rotation duration
53 — moss

DOWN
1 Dubya's brother
2 Eggs
3 USO audience
4 Hiding place for 45-Down?
5 Verve
6 Canto lead-in
7 Equitable
8 Network that suffers during sweeps week?
9 Neck of the woods
10 Remain
11 — d'oeuvre
16 Feathery accessory
20 Lascivious look
21 Secular
22 Hawkeye portrayer
23 Colonial sewer
24 Eskimo boat
26 Developed
27 October stone
28 Galley supply
29 "South Park" kid
31 Banner
34 Exit
35 Wild and crazy
37 "A pox upon thee!"
38 Face feature
39 Vagrant
40 Eager, plus
41 Needing liniment
44 — glance
45 Blackjack part
46 Genetic letters
47 Solidify

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top ten
Baby Costume Searches

Source: www.yahoo.com

1. Infant Monkey
2. Baby Tinkerbell
3. Baby Fairy
4. Infant Ladybug
5. Baby Elvis
6. Baby Butterfly
7. Baby Yoda
8. Baby Pumpkin
9. Baby Lion
10. Baby Princess Leia

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

United States

Palin testifies to investigator in ethics dispute

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin testified for two hours Friday in an abuse-of-power investigation that has been a distraction to her Republican vice presidential campaign. Palin's leadership was questioned this month in a stinging but largely toothless legislative report that found she violated state ethics laws by letting a family dispute influence her decision-making.

Palin is hoping the Alaska Personnel Board, which is running a parallel investigation, will clear her of wrongdoing. It's unclear, however, whether any conclusion will be reached before Election Day.

"I am so pleased to finally have gotten the chance to tell what really happened and get the truth out," Palin said in a statement released by her attorney. "It was the right thing to do to bring this before the Personnel Board and have a true arms length unbiased and apolitical investigator look into this."

The board is investigating the firing of her public safety commissioner, Walter Monegan. Monegan claims he was dismissed because he refused to fire Palin's former brother-in-law, a state trooper involved in a messy divorce from Palin's sister. The controversy, known as "Troopergate," took on national significance after John McCain selected Palin as his running mate.

The legislative inquiry found that Monegan's firing was proper but the pressure to fire the trooper, Mike Wooten, was not. Griffin says Palin stands by her decision to fire Monegan and her concerns about Wooten.

Palin and her husband, Todd, say Wooten was unstable and had made threats against their family. Wooten had also used an electric stun gun on his stepson.

"I make no apologies for wanting to protect my family and wanting to publicize the injustice of a violent trooper keeping his badge," Todd Palin said in an affidavit submitted to legislative investigators.

AP
Alaska Gov. and Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin waves to supporters during a rally at Hobart Arena, in Troy, Ohio, on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008.

Sarah Palin was not subpoenaed in that investigation. Friday's testimony before independent investigator Timothy Petumenos was the first time she spoke at length or under oath about the controversy. Palin began testifying around 4 p.m., McCain campaign spokesman Taylor Griffin said. Palin's husband, Todd, was scheduled to testify before she did.

Palin's attorney, Thomas Van Flein, characterized Palin's testimony as "thorough, candid and detailed." Van Flein said Petumenos assured him he was working quickly but made no promise the case would be closed before Election Day.

"I just hope the truth comes out," Van Flein said. "If it's after the election, it's after the election."

Although the legislative report issued a stinging rebuke of Palin's conduct, it carried no penalty. It's up to the personnel board to decide whether Palin violated the law. She filed a complaint against herself to launch the investigation after accusing the legislative inquiry of becoming partisan. Unlike the Legislature, the personnel board is run by officials that Palin can fire but only for cause.

"She felt this was an opportunity to get an unbiased, independent review of the facts," McCain campaign spokesman Taylor Griffin said.

Christian right intensifies attacks on Obama

By ERIC GORSKI and RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITERS

Terrorist strikes on four American cities. Russia rolling into Eastern Europe. Israel hit by a nuclear bomb. Gay marriage in every state. The end of the Boy Scouts.

All are plausible scenarios if Democrat Barack Obama is elected president, according to a new addition to the campaign conversation called "Letter from 2012 in Obama's America," produced by the conservative Christian group Focus on the Family Action.

The imagined look into the future is part of an escalation in rhetoric from Christian right activists who are trying to paint Obama in the worst possible terms as the campaign heads into the final stretch and polls show the Democrat ahead.

Although hard-edge attacks are common late in campaigns, the tenor of the strikes against Obama illustrate just how worried conservative Christian activists are about what should happen to their causes and influence if Democrats seize control of both Congress and the White House.

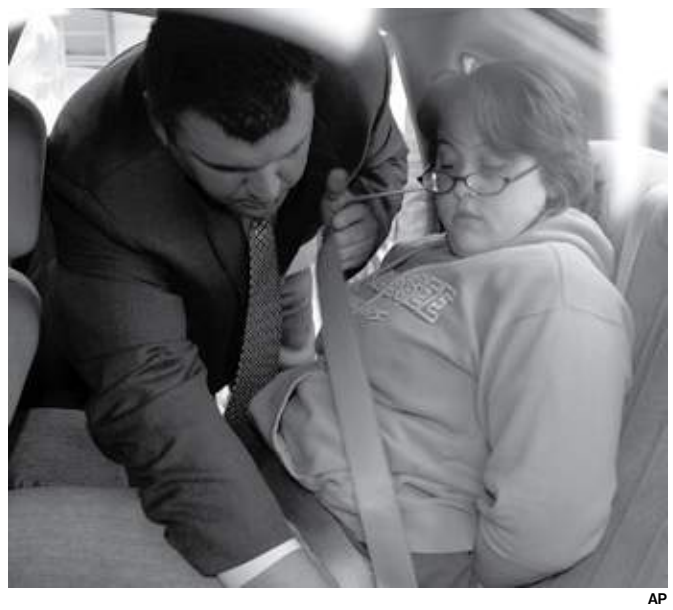
"It looks like, walks like, talks like and smells like desperation to me," said the Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell of Houston, an Obama supporter who backed President Bush in the past two elections. The Methodist pastor called the 2012 letter "false and ridiculous." He said it showed that some Christian conservative leaders fear that Obama's faith-based appeals to voters are working.

Police: McCain volunteer made up robbery story

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A McCain campaign volunteer made up a story of being robbed, pinned to the ground and having the letter "B" scratched on her face in what she had said was a politically inspired attack, police said Friday.

Ashley Todd, 20-year-old college student from College Station, Texas, admitted Friday that the story was false, said Maurita Bryant, the assistant chief of the police department's investigations division. Todd was charged with making a false report to police, and Bryant said police doubted her story from the start.

Dressed in an orange hooded sweat shirt, Todd left police headquarters in handcuffs late Friday and did not respond to questions from reporters. The mark on her face was faded and her left eye was slightly blackened when she arrived in district court.


AP
Ashley Todd, a 20-year-old college student from College Station, Texas, right, is buckled into a police car by a detective in Pittsburgh, Friday, Oct. 24, 2008.

Another dragging death in Texas raises tensions

PARIS, Texas (AP)—In a gruesome case with powerful echoes of the dragging death of James Byrd a decade ago, a black man was killed underneath a pickup truck in East Texas and two white men have been charged with murder.

Black activists and the victim's mother are calling last month's killing of 24-year-old Brandon McClelland a racist attack. But prosecutors cast strong doubt on that Friday.

McClelland died after going with two white friends on a late-night beer run across the state line to Oklahoma, investigators said. Authorities said he was run over and dragged as far as 70 feet beneath the truck. His torn-apart body was discovered along a bloodstained rural road on Sept. 16. His mother said pieces of his skull could still be found three days later.

AP
A truck down Farm Road 2648 past a wreath that sits near where Brandon McClelland died, Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, near Paris, Texas.

The case has raised racial tensions in Paris, a town of 26,000 with a history of fraught relations between blacks and whites.

To some, it sounded like the Byrd case, in which a black man in the East Texas town of Jasper, about 200 miles south of Paris, was chained by the ankles to the back of a pickup by three white supremacists and dragged for three miles. Two of the killers are now on death row; the third is serving a life sentence.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police search for evangelist's alleged enforcer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Seth Calagna recalled lying on the Fort Smith warehouse floor, feeling every strike of the board against his backside as blood oozed onto the winter-cooled concrete. Calagna told detectives months later that John Erwin Kolbeck, an alleged enforcer for jailed evangelist Tony Alamo, paused after 20 strikes to order another ministry member to pull off the 17-year-old's pants and thermals. Kolbeck slammed the wooden board against the teen's underwear and bare skin until the board finally broke, according to a police report. A police detective noted Calagna's offense: "He said he made a sarcastic remark about Harry Potter." Kolbeck, 49, faces an arrest warrant on a second-degree felony battery charge over the incident. He hasn't been seen since federal agents and state troopers raided one of the ministry's Arkansas compounds more than a month ago.

Execution delayed for convict in '89 Ga. killing

ATLANTA (AP)—A federal appeals court gave a late reprieve Friday to a Georgia man set to be executed for the 1989 killing of an off-duty police officer in a case in which several witnesses have changed their accounts of the crime. Troy Davis, 40, was scheduled to be executed Monday for the murder of Savannah Police Officer Mark MacPhail. But the three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the execution and ordered his attorneys to prove whether he can meet "stringent requirements" to press his appeal. It was the third time since July 2007 that Davis has been spared the death penalty by a late court decision.

Conn. school buses collide; nearly 20 kids hurt

LITCHFIELD, Conn. (AP)—Three school buses carrying 79 middle school students on a class trip collided Friday in western Connecticut, injuring 19 children. The seventh-grade students from Sage Park Middle School in Windsor were returning home from a trip to White Memorial Conservation Park. Police said the chain-reaction crash occurred when the first two buses in the convoy yielded for a car, but the last bus failed to stop. School officials said 19 students were taken to a hospital for observation after complaining of minor injuries. They were met there by their parents, the officials said. Four adults were also treated for minor injuries, police said.

Asia

RP rebels kill 6 soldiers, wound 2

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels ambushed an army unit and triggered a land mine blast that killed six soldiers and wounded two others in the southern Philippines, a military spokesman said Saturday.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang said at least 30 New People's Army guerrillas fired on the soldiers who were on their way to a remote, rebel-influenced village in Compostela Valley province.

The rebels' gunfire triggered ignition of the anti-personnel mine, he said.

It was one of the highest military casualties in a single encounter with communist rebels in recent months.

Cabangbang said those who died, including a lieutenant, were part of a 14-man team sent to talk to villagers about a planned military medical mission next month.

"They (the soldiers) were able to fire back, but unfortunately six were killed," he said.

The medical mission has not been canceled because the military is determined to reduce rebel influence in the area, Cabangbang said. The mission is part of a bid by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to reduce the rebels to an "inconsequential level" by 2010, when her term of office ends.

The military estimates the New People's Army has 5,000 fighters nationwide waging a communist insurgency that has gone on for almost 40 years.

Peace talks stalled in 2004 after the rebels accused the government of instigating their inclusion in U.S. and European terrorist lists.

Nun accuse India mob of rape

NEW DELHI (AP)—A Roman Catholic nun who accused a Hindu mob of raping her said Friday that she will not cooperate with local police, alleging that they stood by idly during the attack.

Hiding her head and face behind a scarf, the nun told reporters that she was raped after a mob attacked a Christian prayer hall on Aug. 25 in the eastern state of Orissa.

In her first public comments, the nun said a group of about 50 men tore off her clothes and raped her. Later, she said, she was paraded naked, together with a priest, past several policeman who refused to help her.

When she arrived at the police station, officers tried to dissuade her from filing a complaint, she said.

"I was raped and now I don't want to be victimized by Orissa police," she said, calling for a federal investigation.

Orissa police have been harshly criticized for waiting more than a month to begin investigating the attack and only taking steps after the story appeared in news reports.

Police said they had been waiting for a medical report confirming a rape in order to begin their investigation. Police have since detained five men, though it was unclear whether they have been charged with any crime.

US, UN differ on Afghan opium ebb

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. and U.N. experts agree that Afghanistan will harvest fewer poppy plants bound for the drug trade in 2008 after two years of record crops. But they have radically different estimates about what that decline will mean for opium production.

In a report obtained by The Associated Press ahead of its planned release Friday, the Bush administration claims that production of the heroin precursor will plunge by 31 percent, from 8,800 tons in 2007 to 6,100 tons this year. That's more than five times the drop in production predicted by the United Nations in late August.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy maintains its estimate is accurate. Director John Walters says the U.N. report may contain "methodological anomalies" related to on-the-ground surveys of poppy fields and stocks and not factor the effect of poor weather into its production estimate.

The Vienna-based U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, which compiled the U.N. report, was not immediately available to comment, but an official at its New York branch defended its estimate. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Winner of eating contest chokes to death in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A student in Taiwan has died right after winning an eating contest at a university campus, apparently choking on Chinese steamed buns filled with cheese and eggs, local newspapers say. Apple Daily and United Daily News say 23-year-old Chen Chun-ing dashed to the bathroom after swallowing two buns in one minute. Other students found him lying on the floor soon afterward. The papers say Chen was rushed to hospital but failed to respond to resuscitation efforts. As competition winner, Chen would have won NT$2,000 (US$60).

Japan's Nissin recalls instant noodles

TOKYO (AP)—One of Japan's largest instant noodle makers said it was issuing a nationwide recall after a woman grew sick when she ate a cup of noodles that was later found to be tainted with an insecticide. Nissin Food Products, Co., which makes the Cup Noodle brand instant noodles, said Friday that it was recalling the products and advised customers not to eat noodles that had an odd smell or damaged packaging. The recall only applies to the Cup Noodle brand instant noodles in Japan. The recall covers 500,000 cups of instant noodles, according to Japanese media reports.

6 Myanmar opposition members get jail terms

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A court in military-ruled Myanmar handed down prison sentences Friday to six opposition party members arrested after last year's pro-democracy demonstrations, a party spokesman said. A Mandalay court convicted the six of creating public alarm and promoting hatred, and sentenced them to prison terms ranging from two to 13 years, said Nyan Win, a spokesman for the National League for Democracy. Pro-democracy protests raged across the country in Sept. 2007 before they were violently crushed by the army, leaving at least 31 people dead, according to the United Nations. Thousands were arrested.

4 Pakistanis arrested over Marriott blast

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Four men have been arrested over last month's suicide attack on the Marriott Hotel in the Pakistani capital, police said Friday. The four were suspected of "indirect involvement" in the massive blast at the hotel in Islamabad, the city's police chief Ahmad Latif said. They are the first known arrests in relation to the bombing. The Sept. 20 attack killed 54 people and was a bloody reminder of the gathering threat posed by Islamist militants in nuclear-armed Pakistan. Latif said the men were arrested in different parts of the eastern province of Punjab, but gave no more details.

World

Iraqis have money but do not know how to spend it

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's government has an unusual money problem as much of the world grapples with a credit crunch - it can't spend its oil riches fast enough.

The U.S. is trying to change that by training Iraqi bureaucrats struggling to emerge from a centralized system in which nearly all decisions—from where to build a water treatment plant to which workers would do the job—came from the top.

Money also was scarce for more than a decade after the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions to punish Saddam Hussein's regime for the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Our efforts are devoted to helping the Iraqis spend their own money," said Marc Wall, the U.S. Embassy's coordinator for economic transition in Iraq. "We've zeroed in on it in the last year or two."

The issue came to the fore this summer when the U.S. General Accounting Office predicted Iraq could finish the year with as much as a $79 billion cumulative surplus because of oil revenues and unspent funds from previous budgets.

The August report drew outrage in Congress, where lawmakers asked why the Iraqis haven't spent more of their own money on reconstruction efforts while U.S. taxpayers shell out some $12 billion a month for Iraq—most for military operations.

U.S. and Iraqi officials dispute the GAO figures, arguing they are inflated and do not reflect Iraqi accounting procedures. They also say Iraqi spending on reconstruction is expected to increase by 50 percent from 2007 to 2008.

But most agree that major obstacles still include inexperienced bureaucrats, too few Iraqi contractors and a cumbersome approval procedure aimed at curbing corruption.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's Tatweer project is designed to train Iraqi civil servants in basic decision-making skills to help them allocate funds and effectively deliver government services such as electricity, water and security.

Gitmo guards struggle with hunger striker

By BEN FOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Three years ago, the man known as Internment Serial Number 669 stopped eating. Ahmed Zaid Zuhair, a father of 10 children in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, had been held at Guantanamo Bay since 2002 without charges and decided to join a mass hunger strike in protest. The U.S. military was determined not to let him succeed.

Since then, according to court documents reviewed by The Associated Press, guards have struggled with him repeatedly, at least once using pepper spray, shackles and brute force to drag him to a restraint chair for his twice-daily dose of a liquid nutrition mix force-fed through his nose.

The documents, filed in federal court in Washington, are a rare look at the military tactics used on hunger strikers, which have sparked international condemnation but remained hidden from view, with officials refusing to even confirm the identity of the men taking part in the protest.

Zuhair's attorney, Yale Law School lecturer Ramzi Kassem, says the tactics described in the documents amount to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment." The military says the only reason it uses such tactics is that Zuhair is violent and dangerous.

"ISN 669 has a very long history of disciplinary violations and noncompliant, resistant and combative behavior," according to Army Col. Bruce Vargo, commander of Guantanamo Bay's guards.

Zuhair's protest is the remnant of a mass hunger strike at Guantanamo Bay that began in the summer of 2005, with prisoners celebrating the 10 Irish Republican Army and Irish National Liberation Army militants who starved themselves to death in Britain's Maze prison in 1981 while demanding political-prisoner status.

AP

This picture released by attorney Ramzi Kassem and made available Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008, shows Guantanamo Bay detainee Ahmed Zaid Zuhair in an undated family picture taken in Saudi Arabia.

CONJOINED TWINS AP

Iraqi conjoined twins Zyad, left, and Eyad lie at King Abdul Aziz Medical city in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008. The operation to separate the Iraq twins was planned to take place on Oct. 25.

Focus

rare shark makes waves in Dubai

Hotel visitors on a recent day appeared torn about Sammy, the whale shark whose captivity at the ocean-themed Atlantis Resort in Dubai has caused controversy. "I love to seem them, but I think they should be the same as birds–free," one said. But another suggested, "Maybe with the pollution, they're better here."

THE WASHINGTON POST

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—One day this summer, a fisherman spotted a 14-foot shark off this high-rise Persian Gulf boomtown. The polka dots on the creature's back showed she was a whale shark, an internationally protected species.

The fisherman, according to local news reports and the United Arab Emirates' Environment Ministry, was working on consignment, charged by a new $1.5 billion, ocean-themed resort here with finding exotic fish for its aquariums and water park.

Today, the shark is the star attraction in a tank in the black marble lobby of the newly opened Atlantis, a project of a state-owned development company and a foreign developer best known for founding the Sun City resort in apartheid-era South Africa. Guests pay $7,500 a night to stay in Atlantis's Poseidon and Neptune suites, where a glass wall affords a private view of the whale shark and the smaller fish in her tank. Diners in a seafood restaurant run by a Michelin three-star chef enjoy the same view.

Developers are generally the unchallenged heroes of Dubai's $1 trillion-plus building boom. There was no outcry last year, for example, when authorities deported hundreds of predominantly South Asian construction workers—legally entitled to neither a minimum wage nor the right to strike—for staging a protest for better pay.

But the fate of the freckled gray shark has caught public attention, suggesting that even Dubai's culture of developer-driven excess has its limits.

An Emirates-based newspaper, the Gulf News, is waging a Free Sammy the Shark campaign—editors said they named the shark before the hotel disclosed it was female. The newspaper runs photos of residents wearing badges showing Sammy and calling for her release.

A Gulf News countdown keeps track of the shark's days behind glass, which numbered 47 as of Thursday.

Emirates residents started a Facebook campaignthat has attracted more than 8,000 members. "This poor whale shark was caught off the shores of Dubai and needs to be put back where it belongs before she dies!!!" its mission statement declares.

Animal advocacy organizations, marine science associations and hotel industry publications have condemned Sammy's confinement. Other whale sharks in captivity include specimens at aquariums in Japan and in Atlanta.

"There's not a true scientific reason to keep the whale shark in a tank. It's clear that they brought it as an attraction," said Azzedine Downes, the Dubai-based vice president of the International Fund for Animal Welfare. "To remove a female from the population just further endangers the species."

Spokeswomen in the United States and Dubai for the hotel's lead owner, South African Sol Kerzner, did not return repeated calls for comment.

Kerzner has withstood tougher protests. His Sun City resort in South Africa inspired the Steve Van Zandt song that includes the refrain "I ain't gonna play Sun City" and became a symbol of international protests against South Africa's then-segregated government. The boycott lasted until apartheid ended in 1994; Sun City remains.

Hotel spokeswoman Ashley McBain, in a brief interview, denied a weekend announcement by the environment minister that Atlantis had agreed to free the whale shark. "I know that just as in the Bahamas, marine life is our number one priority," she said, referring to an Atlantis property in the Caribbean. "At some point the whale shark could be released."

A government-owned company, Nakheel, is the other main developer of the Atlantis in Dubai.

Trade in whale sharks is regulated by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species. They are the biggest fish on earth, growing as long as 65 feet. Despite their size, they are harmless to humans, feeding on small plants and animals that they sieve through their yard-long mouths.

Whale sharks can live 70 years, dive more than 6,000 feet and range for thousands of miles. They swim in both shallow and deep water, and researchers cite their curiosity.

The Atlantis and the Environment Ministry say the captive shark is educating the public. In the hotel lobby, however, neither signs nor guides identify the shark for the tourists who pass through.

"It's beautiful!" said Chris Watson of Boston, a retired airline employee touring with former colleagues.

Watson and her friends were divided on the shark's confinement.

"Maybe with the pollution, they're better here," said Delila Serret, also of Boston.

"I love to see them, but I think they should be the same as birds—free," Watson said. "Nothing should be caged."

Life & Style

A gentleman and a singer

By EMILI VESILIND
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gliding across the stage, crooning "come closer" over a driving beat, he manhandles the microphone stand like a modern-day James Brown. Only without the polyester jumpsuit.

Ne-Yo, the R&B triple-threat singer, performer and songwriter, is rocking a steel gray Tom Ford sharkskin suit, a silver tie cinched with a tie bar—and his trademark fedora.

His retro style—or "swag" as he calls it—informs every element of the performance. Flanked by four female dancers, he sings in front of an old-school band with a full horn section. His moves—rocking in time interspersed with slices of intricate footwork—rival Usher's for sheer smoothness.

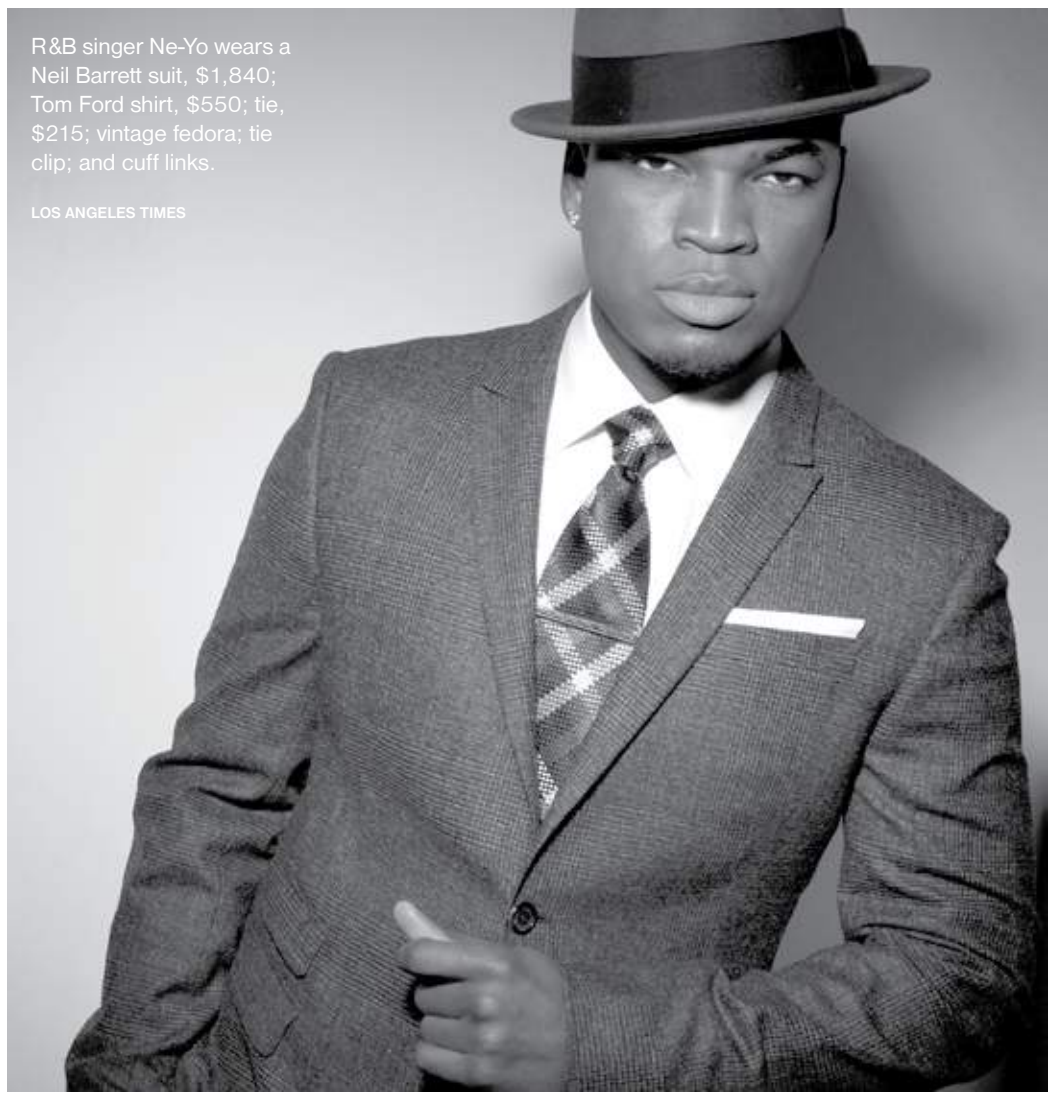
In today's music world, it doesn't get much sharper than this.

The 29-year-old has been an up-and-coming name for years. Love songs are his stock in trade—he's written a string of hit ballads, including "Take a Bow" for Rihanna, and is slated to work on Michael Jackson's next album. But with the recent release of the aptly titled "Year of the Gentleman," Ne-Yo is stepping into the spotlight in a whole new way—as a bona fide fashion plate, elevating the rules of style for the modern R&B set.

Although female R&B artists are often some of the best dressers (Mary J. Blige comes to mind), male crooners are overdue for a sartorial boost. Long gone are the days when Sam Cooke sang "Wonderful World" in a satin-lapeled suit and skinny tie and Marvin Gaye nimbly mixed Rastafarian hats with tuxedo jackets while asking "What's Going On." Since the 1980s, male R&B fashion has ranged from the nondescript, in the vein of Luther Vandross and Brian McKnight, to gangster-light, a la R. Kelly and Boyz II Men, to downright goofy (paging Bobby Brown).

Maybe that's why Ne-Yo's style is so steeped in the long-ago—the '40s and '50s, to be exact—"when music to me was its most real," he says during a recent backstage interview. "Back then, it meant something to be an entertainer. You would see the Rat Pack in a suit and tie, but if it wasn't a suit and tie, it was a shirt with a collar—something mature. You were fly 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

The singer is hardly ever without a hat. "My dad didn't give me much, but he did give me his screwy hairline," he notes, exposing his slightly balding pate. By day, he wears one of his many Kangol newsboy caps; by night, he switches to short-brimmed fedoras—cocked to the side, just like Ol' Blue Eyes.



R&B singer Ne-Yo wears a Neil Barrett suit, $1,840; Tom Ford shirt, $550; tie, $215; vintage fedora; tie clip; and cuff links.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Born in Arkansas as Shaffer C. Smith, he was raised by a single mother in Las Vegas. The Smith clan was "by no means poor, but we weren't rich," says Ne-Yo, who lives in Atlanta. "However many jobs my mom had to have to make sure my sister and I didn't need anything, she had."

Self-conscious about his hairline, he started wearing hats in high school. And now, Ne-Yo is so well-known for wearing fedoras, he's in talks with a company to start his own hat line. "But I don't want to just put my name on something," he adds. "I have to find the time to be really involved." He's not loyal to any brands when it comes to chapeaus and insists that you have to try on a hat to see if it fits in size and attitude.

Dressing up means donning a dark, well-cut suit from Paul Smith, Tom Ford or Gucci. "It has to give you a man's hourglass," he says, "coming down to the waist and then coming out again ever so slightly at the hips and legs—accommodating all the natural curves" (he flexes his biceps and cracks himself up).

When dressing casually, he still keeps things neat. And he's walking the talk at present—wearing nicely pressed dark jeans and a cream-colored cashmere argyle sweater, topped by a matching Kangol newsboy cap. "I put this little ensemble together myself," he says, flashing the disarming grin that changes his face entirely.

Fickle fashion trends don't hold sway in this singer's closet. "I've always been interested in style, not so much fashion," he says. "I was always the guy going left when everyone was going right. And my mom raised us to focus on needs, not wants. We didn't really care about what the hottest sneaker was. You need food, you need shelter, you need somebody on the face of this planet that genuinely and truly loves you." (Still, now that he can afford slick sneakers, he buys them—from Supra and Gucci.)

The singer's taste in music and fashion led to a collaboration with Cognac label Hennessy this year, in which he acted as curator for the Hennessy Artistry Tour, a series of concerts, handpicking everything from the artists (LL Cool J and Eve) to the waiters' uniforms.

He likes collaborating with stylists—Misha Rudolph of Los Angeles is his go-to for public appearances and photo shoots—but he won't be domineered by them.

"I like working with a stylist who understands that I'm an individual, so I'm going to have an opinion," he says. "There are some stylists I've worked with that say (affects a know-it-all voice) `I got this, let me do this.' And I'm like, no you don't, you're fired. I don't give a damn if it's a European cut. If it's too tight, I can't move and the energy I exude on stage is not going to come out right."

Rudolph says she's always on the hunt for interesting hats and ties (the singer collects both), adding that Ne-Yo leans toward the elegant. "He's not the guy who's going to wear anything punk rock—he's not a fashion victim," she says. "He likes things to be neat and tailored. If something's too messy, he can't get his head around it."

"Calm" and "focused" are words Rudolph uses to describe Ne-Yo, and she might have added "controlled." Whether he's in the studio, onstage or in his closet, he's always behind the wheel. When it comes to style, "my clothes have to represent who I am," he says. "Because before you speak to me, I need you to know who I am. So that when you approach me, you approach me in the way I want you to."

The men of R&B don't always look as dapper as Ne-Yo—but they certainly started out that way. Below, some of the most memorable male looks from the past several decades—from the supremely natty to the utterly cringe-worthy.

Sharp-dressed men

Sam Cooke, Fats Domino and Ray Charles helped pave the way for modern rhythm and blues in the 1950s and always dressed the part of the gentleman. Dark suits and tuxedos were de rigueur for performers—teamed with starched white shirts, pocket squares and skinny ties. With rock 'n' roll on the horizon, the button-down look wouldn't last long.

Polyester and flash

In the early '60s, Motown groups such as the Temptations and the Miracles kept their images squeaky-clean in matching suits and shiny lace-ups. But by the mid-'60s, James Brown burst onto the scene in flashy metallic suits with wide lapels, polyester jumpsuits and tighter-than-tight trousers. His Medusa-like coif (did he set it with pink foam rollers?), "Shaft" ankle boots and permanent state of sweatiness rendered the Godfather of Soul one of the most recognizable figures in music history.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Pioneers of R&B style made their mark with dark suits and skinny ties, or bling and baggy jeans.

Pioneers of soulful style

By EMILI VESILIND
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Purple reign vs. King of Pop

Prince took cross-dressing into the mainstream in the 1980s, with his long, curly locks, stiletto boots and ruffle-bibbed shirts (yet he was big on body and facial hair), and made purple the hue of the decade. Meanwhile, Michael Jackson took style back to the '50s in penny loafers, "Grease" biker jackets and high-water pants. And don't forget that lone glittery glove—co-opted by every tween in the free world.

Sweaters to sweat shirts

Marvin Gaye evolved from a clean-cut, cardigan-wearing crooner in the '50s and '60s to a bearded, war-protesting soul singer in the early 1970s. Tall, lean and handsome, he was made to wear clothes and looked as dashing in a sweat shirt and striped, Afro-inspired knit cap as he did in a suit (or that iconic trench coat). That same decade, cross-dressing disco singer Sylvester pushed the genre's style—and gender politics—into new, eye-shadowed realms.

Bad and baggy

As gangsta rap took over in the 1990s, R&B guys toughened their image with Timberland boots, baggy jeans and diamond-encrusted gold chains. When bad-boy balladeer R. Kelly wasn't strutting around shirtless, he was clad in a skullcap, white tank top and jeans slung low (to flash his boxers). New Edition spinoff Bell Biv DeVoe kept it lighter, mixing gangster-style threads with fedoras, top hats and other quirky accessories.

Smooth operators

The new look of R&B is polished and elegant, and never overtly bling-y (think Patek Philippe watches, not gangster nugget rings). Like Ne-Yo, R&B singer John Legend also boasts a GQ-worthy look, based on classic pieces such as trench coats, collared, button-front shirts, cashmere sweaters and tailored sports jackets. Welcome back, kind gents.

Jennifer Hudson's mother, brother slain in Chicago

By RUPA SHENOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

Police are seen near a home on Chicago's South Side, Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, where they are investigating the deaths of two people whose bodies were found at a home that is listed under the same name as the mother of Oscar-winning actress and singer Jennifer Hudson.

CHICAGO (AP)—The mother and brother of Jennifer Hudson were found shot dead Friday at a South Side home, and police were looking for a missing child who is the nephew of the singer and Oscar-winning actress.

"We can confirm that there is an ongoing investigation concerning the deaths of Jennifer Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, and her brother, Jason Hudson," Hudson's personal publicist, Lisa Kasteler, said in a statement. "No further comment will be made and the family has asked that their privacy be respected at this difficult time."

■ ■ ■ ■

CHICAGO (AP)—Published reports say a man suspected in the shooting deaths of the mother and brother of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson is in custody, but the singer's missing nephew has not been located.

Law enforcement sources tell the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times that 27-year-old William Balfour is in custody and is being questioned. But they say 7-year-old Julian King's whereabouts are still unknown.

Balfour has not been charged.

Police spokeswoman Monique Bond says police are talking to "a number of people in custody" but she declined to elaborate.

■ ■ ■ ■

A missing child alert issued Friday says Balfour is a suspect in the double homicide of 57-year-old Darnell Donerson and 29-year-old Jason Hudson. Their bodies were found Friday afternoon in a Chicago home.

Police spokeswoman Monique Bond said the deaths appeared to be the result of domestic abuse. The Cook County medical examiner's office said autopsies for Donerson, 57, and Jason Hudson, 29, were pending.

Police were talking to "a number of people in custody" on Friday night, said Bond, who declined to elaborate.

Deputy Chief Joseph Patterson said a family member entered the home around 3 p.m. Friday, found a woman shot on the living room floor and left to notify authorities. Responding officers found a man shot in the bedroom, Patterson said. There was no sign of forced entry.

Police tape blocked access to the large, white house, where a crowd gathered outside.

Authorities issued an Amber Alert for 7-year-old Julian King and were seeking a 1994 white Chevrolet Suburban. The child was the grandson of the female victim, Patterson said.

The alert said the child was possibly abducted and could be accompanied by a man named William Balfour—considered armed and dangerous—who was a suspect in the double homicide investigation. Records from the Illinois Department of Corrections show Balfour, 27, who has not been charged with a crime, is on parole and spent nearly seven years in prison for attempted murder, vehicular hijacking and possessing a stolen vehicle.

Public records show one of Balfour's addresses as the home where Donerson and Jason Hudson were shot.

The two could also be in a teal or green Chrysler Concorde with a temporary license plate, a left front headlight hanging out and scratches on the left side of the vehicle, police said.

The tragedy comes as Hudson, who grew up in Chicago, continues to reach new heights in her career. Her song "Spotlight" is No. 1 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop charts and her recently released, self-tiled debut album has been a top seller. She was featured in this year's blockbuster "Sex and the City" movie and is also starring in the hit film "The Secret Life of Bees."

She won an Academy Award for best supporting actress in 2007 for her role in "Dreamgirls." In an interview last year with Vogue, Hudson credited her mother with encouraging her to audition for "American Idol," which launched her career.

The singer, whose father died when she was a teenager, described herself as very close to her family. In a recent AP interview she said her family, which includes older siblings Julia and Jason, helped keep her grounded.

"My faith in God and my family, they're very realistic and very normal, they're not into the whole limelight kind of thing, so when I go home to Chicago that's just another place that's home," she said. "I stand in line with everybody else, or, when I go home to my mom I'm just Jennifer, (so she says), 'You get up and you take care of your own stuff.' And I love that; I don't like when people tell you everything you want to hear, I want to hear the truth, you know what I mean."

Hudson recently announced her engagement to David Otunga, best known for his stint on VH1's reality show "I Love New York."

Hudson's representatives would not disclose her whereabouts Friday. She had been scheduled to appear Monday in Los Angeles to collect an ensemble cast honor at the Hollywood Awards for "The Secret Life of Bees" with co-stars including Alicia Keys, Queen Latifah and Dakota Fanning.

'Survivor: China' cast mates win $80,000 wedding

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—A couple who met on CBS' "Survivor: China" have won an $80,000 wedding in a promotion sponsored by the Charleston, South Carolina, convention and visitors bureau.

Jaime Dugan and Erik Huffman will be married next April at the Wild Dunes Resort. Huffman proposed last June.

The couple live in Nashville, Tennessee. Huffman plays in a rock band; Dugan devotes her time to a women's ministry.

Their video submission was among four finalists selected by judges. The convention bureau says more than 35,000 people viewed the final videos online and voted for the winner.

The couple grew up not far from each other in upstate South Carolina, but didn't meet until they competed on "Survivor."

Longtime mall Santa out in the cold

By FREDRICK KUNKLE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Santa just got the boot. And not just any Santa.

Michael Graham, of Sevierville, Tenn., has been Santa at Tysons Corner Center for so long that some who visited him when they were young have brought their own children to experience his magic: a real snowy beard, a twinkle in his eye, a way with children that conveyed the presence of a kind and timeless character. He drew family members from the Washington region and beyond who stood in long lines for hours and brought albums with pictures taken in his lap from Christmases past.

But after 18 years of planting children on his knee, Graham said Tuesday that the suburban Virginia mall is not inviting him back this year. Graham said he's not sure why, particularly because he had a contract until 2012. A spokeswoman for the company that manages the mall said Graham has done nothing wrong. It's just that the company wanted a different Santa signed on by the new photo operator who will run the event.

That leaves Graham, 51, without work this holiday season and with visions of foreclosure dancing in his head. Graham, who works as a carpenter in a small Tennessee town when he's not minding the store at the North Pole, said he was counting on the $30,000 he would earn as Santa when he bought a new house last year.

Now it's too late to book another mall, and he has already spent a good bit of money preparing for Christmas. It's not elves who make each of the three $900 custom-tailored velvet suits he uses each year, or the boots that go for $725 a pair.

"It obviously put me in a major bind," Graham said in a telephone interview.

Those who have known him over the years reacted to the news as if they had been exiled to the Island of Broken Toys.

"What a bunch of Grinches to do that!" said Michelle Gallagher, 40, who took her 3-year-old daughter, Anna, to see him. "I'm absolutely shocked."

Gallagher, of Leesburg, Va., said she still has last year's holiday picture, with her daughter and Santa, hanging on the refrigerator.

"He is the Santa you imagine in your mind," Gallagher said. "It's his whole demeanor, his whole presence. It's his eyes. The cheeks. The beard. It's a real beard, too—it's huge. I mean, I won't go back there if he's not there. I won't even shop there."

People who know Graham say his ability to play Santa Claus has something to do with having three children, four grandchildren and a deep religious faith. He also takes his seasonal work seriously. He said he has never missed a day of duty. He also said he does not drink. He does not smoke. He does not curse.

His impersonation of St. Nick inspired Southern Living Magazine to write, "Yes, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus. His name is Mike Graham."

Graham, also featured in the mall's holiday advertising, said he signed a 10-year contract in 1993 that was renewed in 2003 and extended in 2006 for six more years to 2012. He acknowledged that the contract could be canceled on short notice.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Michael Graham, of Sevierville, Tenn., the longtime Santa at Tysons Corner Center in Virginia, was valued by mall shoppers and parents for his real snowy beard, the twinkle in his eye and his way with children that conveyed the presence of a kind and timeless character.

Allison Fischer, a spokeswoman for Macerich Co., which manages the mall, said the company jointly selected a new Santa with a new photo operator, which she identified as IPI-World Wide Photography. The company arranges same-day photography for special events and malls that host Santas, according to its Web site. A call to IPI-World Wide late Tuesday was not returned.

Graham got his start when he filled in 23 years ago for a Santa who had a heart attack. His first job was at a mall outside Nashville, and it didn't take long for him to fall in love with the role. The next venue, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., featured a grand entrance with reindeer. Then he got the job at Tysons Corner. Over the years, he learned some tricks: He needed three suits (kids' accidents, wear and tear), and he has had to field some unusual requests. One boy asked for a mimosa tree.

"You take care of kids just like they're your own," Graham said. "The best thing you can do for any kids at all is give them that one-on-one time. But instead of talking over them, you look directly in their eyes. That's the secret of the whole thing."

Collecting with the stars: celeb trading cards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—These days, most celebrities trade on their fame for fashion lines, fragrances, reality shows and blogs. Now, some 40 famous folks - from Scarlett Johansson to Jared Leto - will be able to trade their fame with each other.

A new line of celebrity trading cards - yes, the little cardboard ones baseball fans used to hoard - officially sanctioned by the stars themselves is being launched by entertainment product company A-List Global Media.

Called PopCardz, the celebrity trading card line is the brainchild of Ted Kurie and Christian Troy, who once represented A-listers as an agent at Creative Artists Agency. To personally acquire celebrities' permission for the cards, Troy dug deep into his CAA contacts.

"I started going around town to agents, managers, publicists and lawyers that I knew in these artists' lives," said Troy. "I pitched it as a simple and great idea, using these movie and TV stars' likeness to reach a young demographic in a really special way. We were really looking for artists who were credible and popular—but not because of scandal."

So don't except Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan or Britney Spears cards this go 'round.

AP

In this June 1, 2008 file photo, actress Megan Fox arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles.

The star power in the celebrity trading card collection is sprinkled with tween powerhouses (Cole and Dylan Sprouse, Ashley Tisdale, Raven-Symone), starlets (Megan Fox, Jessica Biel, Hayden Panettiere, Jessica Alba, Christina Ricci) and a few leading men (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Anton Yelchin, Giovanni Ribisi, Chris Evans).

PopCardz will be sold in stores in five-card packs beginning in November. Proceeds will given to the celebrities' charities. Each card will have a unique 10-digit access code printed on it that will provide additional online content at PopCardz.com.

The back of the cards list celebrities' birth dates, hometowns and mottos as well as a favorite charity, movie, song, book, place, sport, food—and a secret. "Kath & Kim" actress Selma Blair revealed, for instance, that she wore an eye patch for a year when she was 7 because she was embarrassed about her amblyopia—lazy eye syndrome.

"Tabloids are so prevalent," said Blair. "I think this is way for kids - or whoever is collecting them - to find something out about their favorite celebrities, and find out really positive things about them."

Blair, who accumulated "Wacky Packages" and "Superman" trading cards growing up, was one of the first celebrities to agree to be immortalized in the collection. The "Hellboy" and "Cruel Intentions" actress said she was excited the cards would benefit and prominently feature celebrities' causes.

"It's a benevolent, cool thing," said Blair.

Her only concern? How her card will fare among traders once it's released.

"I'm sure everyone will be like, 'I'll give you 20 Selma Blairs for 1 Scarlett Johansson,'" Blair joked.

Jerry Lewis makes another anti-gay slur

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Jerry Lewis made an anti-gay slur on Australian television similar to one he apologized for using on his annual telethon a year ago.

Following a news conference in Sydney Friday, Lewis, 82, was asked by a Network Ten national TV reporter for his opinion on the Australian nation sport of cricket.

"Oh, cricket? It's a f-- game. What are you, nuts?" Lewis replied.

The network broadcast the comment in full on its Friday evening news bulletin along with footage of Lewis handling an imaginary cricket bat with an effeminate gesture.

Lewis apologized in September last year for using a similar anti-gay slur in Las Vegas during his annual Labor Day telethon that raises money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

New York-based media discrimination watchdog Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, or GLAAD, as well as gay rights group Australian Coalition for Equality called for Lewis to apologize again.

"Last year, Mr. Lewis apologized for using an anti-gay slur on live television, and expressed his desire to raise public awareness about the impact of this kind of defamation," GLAAD president Neil G. Giuliano said in a statement.

Lewis

"Clearly he did not take the lessons of that unfortunate episode to heart because, in an effort to be humorous, he has once again managed to offend and defame the gay community," he said.

"For someone so well known for helping others, Mr. Lewis shows an incredible lack of dignity and respect when he makes comments that contribute to a climate of intolerance," Giuliano added.

Lewis was still in Australia on Saturday and has performances booked there through Nov. 1. His Australian spokeswoman Julie Cavanagh said he did not intend to comment.

The comedian held Friday's news conference to promote his latest stage show that is touring Australia. It is a retrospective of his career that includes show tunes with a 24-piece band, excerpts from his scores of movies and television shows, and his trademark slapstick comedy.

Tom Cruise returns the favor to Lauer

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Cruise took some shots at Matt Lauer on Friday—this time for fun. But Lauer got in the last word.

The actor was a surprise guest at a Friar's Club roast of the "Today" show host. He joined Martha Stewart, Brian Williams, Katie Couric and Meredith Vieira to sling insults, proving some of TV's sunniest personalities could work blue.

Cruise said Lauer was the man "we wake up to every morning - only because we had the channel on NBC before we fell asleep."

Three years ago, Cruise had berated Lauer on a "Today" show interview for suggesting that psychiatric treatment might help some patients. It was the same year he jumped up and down on Oprah Winfrey's talk show couch, excited about falling in love with Katie Holmes.

Cruise joked that Lauer had given him some advice before his interview with Winfrey: "Go crazy. Trust me. Trust me. People will love you for it."

Couric, Lauer's former "Today" co-host, suggested Cruise was threatened by Lauer. "He wants to be the only heterosexual man in the room who everyone thinks is gay," she said.

NBC Universal chief Jeff Zucker, former executive producer at "Today," revealed the origin of Lauer's popular travelogue feature, "Where in the World is Matt Lauer?"

"We got that idea when I got a call from his wife one morning at 3 a.m.," he said.

His colleagues and comedians like Richard Belzer roasted Lauer for being a germophobe and having a clothes budget rivaling GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

"I always say, a lot of the outfits you see him wear on the `Today' show, they also make for men," Williams said.

The celebrity-filled dais at New York's Hilton Hotel included Aretha Franklin and Donald Trump.

Apparently Cruise didn't have time to spare, since he made for the exit shortly after his speech. That led Lauer to call after him.

"Tom, can you stay?" Lauer said. "I'll get a booster seat."

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

Stadium bathrooms, shaking hands, crosswords for lefties

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE, DAN ZAK

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Dear WeisenHeimers: So I finally went to my first Nats game at the new stadium. I loved everything about it, including our nosebleed seats. But when I went to the commodious bathroom in our section, I was surprised to find there wasn't a mirror in sight. I heard they have them in the fancy-seat restrooms. What gives? With a mustard-stained shirt, Vicki

Joe: Mirrors encourage people to linger and obsess over how they look. This leads to overcrowded restrooms. Dan insists that this is primarily a problem in women's bathrooms, but he doesn't want to say it because he will receive many angry letters from women accusing him of being sexist.

Dan: OK, listen. Ask anyone which sex, on average, spends more time in front a mirror in a public bathroom. It's women. Right, ladies? You'll admit that. It's not a bad thing. And it's not sexist to observe that. Do NOT send me angry letters.

But, yes, Joe is correct. Both the men's and women's bathrooms at Nationals Stadium are mirrorless to promote toilet turnover. "What we want is folks to get in and get out," says a club spokeswoman. "We want to expedite the flow."

Justin: Now THAT is a great quote. I think I know what our motto is going to be next week.

■ ■ ■ ■

Hey, Wise Guys: I know you definitely are not etiquette experts, but do you know the proper way to greet someone who is missing a right hand? Do you shake the person's left hand? If someone is missing two hands, do you just give a quick wave?—Left-Handed Phil

Justin: It is not improper to wait a heartbeat and follow the person's lead. Different people, depending on their circumstances, will handle this in different ways. Some with no right hand may extend their left; those with a prosthesis for a right hand may extend that.

When a person's disability makes any handshake impossible, as was the case with a college buddy of mine, remember that body language and eye contact are the most powerful part of any greeting, handshake or no. The most important thing is to be comfortable and genuine. A handshake should be used as a personal greeting or farewell (except when it's being used to assert dominance, but that's beside the point here) and shouldn't become a cause of angst.

Dan: I once met a guy with a hook for a right hand. He was sure to offer his left hand before I had time to contemplate what to do. If you meet a one-handed fellow who isn't so considerate, then just go for the bear hug. But then be careful that he doesn't vigorously pat you on the back with his hook.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: I enjoy doing crossword puzzles for the mental challenge, but the challenge of working with a right-handed format frustrates me. Why can't puzzles be presented in an agnostic way so that lefties and righties have equal frustration with it?—Diane

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Dan: Joe is actually correct, in a backward kind of way. I shot an e-mail to Will Shortz, the maharajah of puzzles and editor of *The New York Times* crossword. He confirmed that, because of space issues, a crossword must be laid out to favor either right- or left-handers, and the right-handers win because there are more of them.

"At the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, which I direct every year, the page layout, as usual, favors right-handers," Shortz writes in an e-mail. "Lefties can lose precious seconds if their hands cover some of the clues as they write. To remedy this problem, we give lefties two copies of each puzzle—one for reading of the unobstructed clues, the other for filling in. In this way lefties and righties solve on an equal basis. In everyday solving, though, where speed doesn't matter, lefties just have to muddle through."

!ssenisub ni su peeK .srepap owt yub tsuj dluoc uoy rO :**eoJ**

■ ■ ■ ■

This week's motto: Snap, Crackle and Crock (submitted by Charlotte and Nancy Steinecke, of Laurel, Md.).

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Former Bush press secretary backs Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—Scott McClellan, President Bush's former press secretary who angered old colleagues with a tell-all book earlier this year, says he is backing Barack Obama for president.

McClellan is the second former administration official to back the Democratic candidate this week. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell came out Sunday for Obama.

While Powell chose "Meet the Press" to make his news, McClellan did it at the taping of comedian D.L. Hughley's new talk show, which is premiering 10 p.m. Saturday on CNN.

McClellan

Hughley found a little begging helped.

"We are a new show and your endorsement would probably mean a lot," Hughley said Thursday. "But don't look at the fact that I am black or, no pressure. Endorse somebody, damn it!"

McClellan, who was Bush's chief spokesman from July 2003 to April 2006, said he's always planned to support the candidate that has the best chance for changing the way Washington works and getting things done.

"I will be voting for Barack Obama," he said.

McClellan is also giving an extended interview on "Larry King Live" on Friday to talk about his endorsement.

McClellan grew disillusioned after leaving the administration and wrote a book, "What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception," that surprised many for its blunt talk. He admitted to being part of a White House effort to shade the truth about the case for war in Iraq.

The White House said Bush was surprised and saddened about the book.

Hudgens loved her 'High School' graduation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vanessa Hudgens, who was home schooled, says starring in the "High School Musical" movies allowed her to live the rites of passage she missed.

Says Hudgens, "I got to experience my prom, I got to wear a cap and gown for the very first time, graduate with people who I really love, the cast. So it's been a lot of fun."

Hudgens co-stars in "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" with Zac Efron and Ashley Tisdale, who talked to reporters together in Los Angeles to promote their new movie.

As for Efron's real-life high school experience, the heartthrob actor says: "I got really good grades. I'm not going to lie."

Tisdale, who did not belong to any clique and mingled with everyone, says she became friends with the popular kids before realizing "they are not that cool."

In this Oct. 21, 2008 file photo, actress Vanessa Hudgens appears on MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York.

AP

Kid Rock's apparel label to aid music scholarships

DETROIT (AP)—Kid Rock and his Made in Detroit apparel line are working with Wayne State University to help start a college scholarship fund for area music students.

The Detroit company will create 2,500 limited edition T-shirts bearing the school's name and the Made in Detroit logo, which features a factory worker, carrying a large wrench, in silhouette.

Wayne State hopes to initially raise $25,000 from the sale, said university spokeswoman Francine Wunder. The "Kid Rock Scholarship" will be available to students studying the business and performance sides of music.

Kid Rock, whose real name is Robert Ritchie, is from the Detroit area. The 37-year-old rock-rapper bought the clothing company about two years ago.

Helping Wayne State start the scholarship fund is a way for Kid Rock to give back to the community, said his brother, Billy Ritchie.

"Detroit has been very, very good to our family," Billy Ritchie said. "This is one way he thought he could actually do something for these kids.

"If we can empower one of these kids to go and get a degree, they are going to help 10 other kids. We owe it to them."

The T-shirt will be available at the school's campus bookstore.

Kid Rock

'Housewives' actor Harold out of ICU

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Desperate Housewives" actor Gale Harold is out of intensive care at a Los Angeles hospital and improving daily after suffering serious injuries in a motorcycle accident.

A statement from the actor's representatives, Nancy Seltzer and Associates, says "a full recovery is expected."

Harold had swelling on the brain and a fractured shoulder after last week's accident. He had been under observation in the intensive care unit at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center.

Harold plays Jackson, the boyfriend of Teri Hatcher's character, on the ABC show.

The statement, released Thursday, added: "He thanks everyone for their good wishes."

In this photo released by ABC, actor Gale Harold is shown in a scene from "Desperate Housewives."

AP

Country singer Lorrie Morgan files for bankruptcy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Lorrie Morgan has filed for bankruptcy for primarily business related debts, according to a court filing.

Morgan filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in federal court, listing her estimated liabilities between $1 million to $10 million. The bankruptcy filing showed her with assets of $500,000 to $1 million.

The 49-year-old singer, who lives in the Nashville suburb of Lebanon, released a statement calling the bankruptcy "an unfortunate yet necessary part of the restructuring of my business."

"It's very important to me that my fans and business associates understand that I'm OK," she said. "Today's economic times have affected many American families and businesses. I, along with many of you, am not immune to this fact. I would appreciate the courtesy of my friends and fans respecting my privacy regarding this matter."

Morgan lists her creditors as the Internal Revenue Service, banks, lawyers and others. Phone calls made by The Associated Press on Friday to Morgan's bankruptcy trustee and attorney weren't immediately returned.

In 1992, the singer said she repaid her creditors in full and withdrew a bankruptcy petition after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, listing more than $846,000 in debts.

Last year, Morgan filed for divorce from country singer Sammy Kershaw. Court records show she cited irreconcilable differences and asked the court to enforce a prenuptial agreement.

Halloween shutterbug gives concerned mom the creeps

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Please help me. I wasn't sure how to handle an uncomfortable situation last Halloween, and your answer will help me be better prepared this year.

I took my 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old niece trick-or-treating. We only walk up walkways that are well-lit. As we approached one house, an older gentleman was waiting at the open door, handing out candy to the kids.

Before I could process what was happening, he whipped out a camera and took a picture of my daughter and niece. I was not comfortable with it at all. But what could I have possibly done or said without being rude? Our neighborhood is a safe area, but in this day and age you can trust no one.

Do you think it was inappropriate for an older man to take pictures of someone's children? What would be the proper way to handle it this year?

HALLOWEEN ESCORT, SAN DIEGO

DEAR ESCORT: While I admire your vigilance as a parent, if the children were wearing cute costumes, I don't think it was inappropriate for the gentleman to want to take their picture. Of course, it would have been better had this neighbor first asked permission. But since he didn't, and it made you uncomfortable, avoid his house this year and in the future.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for three years. His mother has become very ill and is dying. My problem is, I don't know how to comfort him in his time of need. I am trying my best to console him, but he gets angry. I try to love him, but he pushes me away. I try to talk to him and he tunes me out. What can I do to help my husband?

HEARTBROKEN IN ARIZONA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: You are a loving, caring wife, but please stop trying so hard to "help" your husband. Everyone must deal with death in his (or her) own way, and the things you think might console you may only make him feel worse.

What you can do is be there for him. Do not push him to express his feelings. If he wants to talk, listen. If he tunes you out, stop talking because it means he's not ready to hear what you're trying to communicate. Tell him you love him, but give him his space.

This may not be easy when all you want to do is put your arms around him right now, but please consider what I have said.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was recently promoted and now work closely with presidents, CIOs, CEOs and COOs and a lower-ranking member of an executive team. During meetings, some of these high-ranking individuals issue statements of fact that I know are incorrect.

I care deeply about this company, and I want a long and prosperous career here. How, when and to whom should I point out these errors for the good of the company? I have no desire to embarrass, hurt or make anyone look bad—or to earn enemies.

LITTLE FISH/BIG POND IN LOS ANGELES

DEAR LITTLE FISH: Frankly, much depends on the temperament of the executives with whom you're working. If the person is a self-important blowhard who needs to feel he or she is infallible, it might be better to keep your mouth shut. If, however, the misstatement could come back to embarrass the person at a later date—or cause the team to lose credibility—then correct him or her quietly and privately. To do otherwise could be perceived as trying to "one-up" the senior team member—or worse, stab the person in the back.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Rays pitchers ready to hit in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Scott Kazmir can't wait to take his cuts.

With the World Series shifting to Philadelphia for the next three games, National League rules apply and there will be no designated hitter in either team's lineup.

So that gives Kazmir and other Tampa Bay Rays pitchers a rare chance to hit — on baseball's biggest stage, no less. They might not get much experience at the plate in the AL, but they sure sound eager.

Kazmir is lined up to face Phillies ace Cole Hamels in Game 5. Kazmir is 1-for-10 with one RBI in his big league career.

"Definitely looking forward to it. It's going to be exciting," Kazmir said with a smile Friday. "Got a couple bats ready, lined up. It depends on what he's giving me. If he's giving me a lot of changeups I'll just go to the Cliff Floyd model. If I'm getting a lot of heaters I'll go to the Fernando (Perez)."

So, after preparing themselves with a couple of batting practice rounds recently, which of the Rays pitchers is the biggest threat to go deep?

"We all are," Kazmir said. "We just had BP yesterday and I think every one of us hit at least one bomb."

Even teammate Carl Crawford was impressed, but he thinks James Shields is the best hitter of the bunch. Shields isn't scheduled to start any of the games in Philadelphia.

AP

Groundskeeper Jeremy Wilt paints the letters for the World Series logo in preparation for Saturday's Game 3 baseball game of the World Series between the Tampa Bay Rays and Philadelphia Phillies on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 in Philadelphia.

"They can hit. They love to hit. They practice it," Crawford said. "It's too bad Shields don't get to hit because he's probably the best hitter out of all of them. But they take a lot of pride in their hitting."

Clemente Award

Albert Pujols will be presented with the Roberto Clemente Award prior to Game 3 on Saturday, according to a schedule of events issued by the Phillies.

Nominated for the fifth time in six years, Pujols has a charitable foundation and raises money to assist children with Down Syndrome.

The award is given annually to a major league player who combines community service with excellence on the field. Pujols also could win the NL MVP award for the second time in four years next month.

Swingtime

At this point in a long season, some hitters like to cut short their batting practice sessions. Phillies manager Charlie Manuel thinks he has a better idea: Go swing even more.

"Baseball is repetition. There never has been a guy that played this game that was a great hitter that didn't hit a lot," he said Friday. "And I've got in arguments with guys, like Kenny Lofton comes into my mind. When he first started playing, and I'm using him as an example, I used to get mad at him because on Sundays sometimes he'd go to the manager and he wouldn't have to hit.

"And we came out and it seemed like Kenny was the guy getting all the hits. I told him one day, I said, 'Kenny, there will come a time when you're going to have to hit a lot. I said, you'll see.'"

Manuel learned that discipline when he played pro ball in Japan.

"When I first went there and I got in the batting cage and I could hit like five minutes or take 10 or 15 swings, 25 swings or something, I was dead," he said. "Let me tell you something: I got to the place where I could stand there for two hours, and it was doing me good."

"All the years I managed in the minor leagues, nobody outhit our team. When I was hitting coach in Cleveland, nobody outhit our team. I'm big on repetition. And the more you hit, the better you're going to get," he said.

Howard not concerned about power outage

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ryan Howard had a special delivery waiting for him at his locker. Boxes full of fresh bats were ripped open, the knobs poking out and ready for the Phillies slugger to grab.

Maybe some new wood will help Howard end his postseason power outage.

The season's major league home run (48) and RBIs (146) leader is in a long-ball funk. Howard has no home runs in 40 postseason at-bats, a 13-game homerless streak dating back to the regular season, and only three postseason RBIs.

With runners in scoring position during the World Series, he's 0-for-4 with four strikeouts.

"I'm not worried about home runs," Howard said Friday. "It's not really a big deal. It's just going out there and getting good pitches to hit. When you put a good swing on it, then it goes."

With the World Series tied at a game apiece heading into Saturday night, Howard isn't the only Phillies player in a funk.

Pat Burrell (0-for-6 with three strikeouts) and Jimmy Rollins (0-for-10 with three strikeouts) were lost at the plate in the Trop.

"Nobody's panicking," Howard said. "When you look at it, there's a lot of missed opportunities."

A lot?

How about 1-for-28 with runners in scoring position, including 0-for-13 as the Phillies won the opener. Even when Shane Victorino got a hit with a runner on second base in Game 2, it didn't leave the infield and failed to drive in a run,

Philadelphia has stranded 22 runners to Tampa Bay's seven. Phillies designated hitters Chris Coste and Gregg Dobbs combined to leave 10 men on base.

"We are getting hits. We're just not getting the hits that count right now," Jayson Werth said.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard warms up at Citizens Bank Park during a workout in preparation for Game 3 of the World Series in Philadelphia on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008. The Phillies face the Tampa Bay Rays Saturday.

Philadelphia was 42-15 when Rollins scored a run in the regular season, 50-55 when he didn't. Rollins, who declined to speak to with reporters Friday, hasn't scored one time during the World Series. He's 3-for-31 with 11 strikeouts in his last seven games dating to the NL championship series against Los Angeles.

"He knows when he gets on base, he starts rolling," Howard said. "That's when we go. He gets on base, wreaks a little havoc, we can get some runs and go from there."

Howard and Rollins each took extra hitting with coach Milt Thompson during Friday's workout. Manager Charlie Manuel said the RISP numbers are an indicator that Phillies were pressing.

Manuel noticed some players were swinging too hard, worrying more about going deep in an attempt to win the game with one big hit rather than go for a a simple flyball or even a run-scoring grounder.

"One hit can definitely turn it around," Chase Utley said. "It's happened a few times during the season."

Take Game 4 of the NLCS against the Dodgers. Philadelphia's bats were quiet until Shane Victorino tied it in the eighth with a two-run shot and Matt Stairs put the Phillies ahead with another two-run homer.

The Phillies hit an NL-best 214 homers in the regular season, so the big inning is always possible.

"We might walk out (Saturday) and score seven, eight, 10 runs in the first inning. Who knows?" Manuel said.

While Rollins acknowledged after Game 2 he felt "a little tense" in one at-bat, Utley didn't think nerves were a factor.

Oberholser takes second-round Frys lead

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Aron Oberholser is making the most of his home-field advantage.

He estimates he has played the Raptor Course at Grayhawk Golf Club 75 times, and his last two rounds were among his best.

Oberholser shot a 6-under 64 on Friday for an 11-under 129 total and a one-stroke lead halfway through the Frys.com Open, the fifth of seven stops on the PGA Tour's Fall Series.

"This was my practice facility in 2002 when I first moved down here," he said. "… I've played this golf course so many times and I've been in every spot imaginable, so I'm very comfortable around it, and I really have no fear of any golf shot out here."

Australian Steve Allan, who also lives in Scottsdale, shot a 63 and was one shot behind at 10 under on the sun-baked 7,125-yard desert layout.

Brad Elder and George McNeill were 9 under after 63s.

Paul Goydos—the 2007 Sony Open champion—sank a 47-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to highlight an 8-under 62. Goydos was tied with Aussie Mathew Goggin, first-round co-leader John Mallinger and Robert Garrigus at 8 under.

Billy Mayfair and Steve Elkington were among five players at 7 under.

Like Oberholser, Allan, Goggin, Garrigus and Mayfair live in Scottsdale.

Kevin Stadler shot a tournament-best 61, but still missed the cut after opening with an 81.

Oberholser, a top 10 finisher 18 times on the PGA Tour heading in to this year, is playing his second tournament after coming back from two surgeries on his left wrist in a span of nine months. He said the forced time off may did him some good.

"I made a decision to change teachers, and the good thing was that I hadn't been playing so I hadn't been working on any bad habits," he said.

The winner of the 2006 Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Oberholser says he had developed many bad habits while compensating for the severe pain he had felt in the wrist. He said the first surgery didn't fix the problem, but the second one—to remove bone spurs—did.

"It's actually been a blessing in disguise," he said, "because now I'm coming out here with a fresh look and a fresh start."

Allan ranks 139th on the PGA Tour earnings list. A move up to the top 125 would give him full exempt status for next year.

"It's nice to be playing well," he said. "There's a lot on the line at this time of year, and I'm really trying hard not to think about it and just enjoy the fact that I'm hitting the ball good."

Doug LaBelle II, who shared the first-round lead, shot a 72 and was six back at 5-under 135.

McAllister, Smith violated steroids policy

DENVER (AP)—New Orleans Saints veterans Deuce McAllister and Will Smith reportedly are among several players who have violated the NFL steroids policy.

Fox 31 television in Denver, citing an unnamed source, reported Friday there are between six and 10 positive tests in the NFL for a weight-loss diuretic. The only names the station mentioned were the two Saints, who are in London for Sunday's game with the San Diego Chargers.

Houston TV station KRIV later reported Texans long snapper Bryan Pittman also tested positive and would appeal.

"Bryan did everything humanly possible to comply with the NFL steroid policy, including obtaining doctor's written authorization to take weight loss medication," attorney David Cornwell said in a statement for the Houston station. "He did not use steroids."

ESPN.com, citing two unnamed sources, reported the number of positive tests is more than 10 and may exceed 15.

The NFL would not comment on the reports, but Cornwell told The Associated Press he has been hired to handle the appeals of a number of players who are facing possible suspensions.

Smith

McAllister

"These men are entitled to confidentiality and entitled to go through appeal process, so the (Fox 31) report ... is completely unfair," Cornwell said. "The cornerstone of any workplace testing program, especially one in professional sports with high-profile people, is confidentiality.

"The recent reports about pending appeals by players who are alleged to have used weight loss supplements reflect the most egregious violation of the NFL steroid policy. The foundation of the policy is both a player's right to appeal and an absolute right to confidentiality. By leaking this story, the 'source' is clearly attempting to put their thumb on the scale of justice and harm these men."

Saints spokesman Greg Bensel, who was with the team in London, said drug testing is a league matter and the team would have no immediate comment.

Phone messages left with defensive end Smith's agent, Joel Segal, and running back McAllster's agent, Jim Steiner, were not returned.

According to the NFL's policy, the first positive test results in a four-game suspension.

In August, Jets running back Jesse Chatman was suspended for four games for violating the league's drug policy. He said he tested for a diuretic - "something I never even heard of" - that could be used as a masking agent.

When used as a masking agent a diuretic dilutes the urine, which results in lower levels of the banned substance being excreted from the body. That can make it more difficult to detect banned substances.

The Fox 31 report said three or four of the positive tests belonged to the Saints, and that McAllister and Smith tested positive for Bumetanide.

A "water pill," Bumetanide decreases the amount of water retained in the body by increasing urination. It causes the kidneys to get rid of unneeded water and salt from the body into the urine.

NFL BRIEFS

Burress fined $45K by NFL for 2 issues

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—New York Giants receiver Plaxico Burress was fined $45,000 by the NFL for verbally abusing an official and tossing a ball into the stands during last weekend's game against San Francisco. Burress was fined $20,000 for comments to head linesman Phil McKinnely after the official called him for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty in the second quarter, and $20,000 for inappropriate comments after the game on the officiating.

Peyton had staph in left knee bursa

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A staph infection in a bursa sac in Peyton Manning's left knee led to the surgery that kept him out of much of the Indianapolis Colts' preseason training camp, the team confirmed Friday. But team officials denied reports Manning had a highly virulent form of staph infection that is difficult to treat called methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

Ravens' Suggs denies issuing bounty on Steelers

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—Baltimore Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs insisted Friday the team did not have a bounty on rookie running back Rashard Mendenhall and receiver Hines Ward of the Pittsburgh Steelers.In an interview last week on an Atlanta radio station, Suggs was asked if there was a bounty on Mendenhall. He replied, "The bounty was out on him and the bounty was out on (Ward)."

Steelers' Parker may not play against Giants

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers running back Willie Parker unexpectedly did not practice Friday because of ongoing problems with his sprained left knee and is unlikely to play Sunday against the New York Giants. Wide receiver Santonio Holmes also was held out of practice and will be deactivated Sunday after city police stopped his car and smelled burning marijuana Thursday. Holmes, a former first-round draft pick, will be charged with a marijuana-related misdemeanor count.

James leads Cavs past Wizards

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James had a preseason-high 26 points, Mo Williams added 15 and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Washington Wizards 107-80 on Friday night in the exhibition finale for both teams.

The Cavaliers (3-5) had their highest scoring total of the preseason and committed only nine turnovers in the game at Ohio State's Value City Arena. The Wizards were 2-5 in exhibition play.

Including a reverse layup by James that pulled the Cavaliers even at 37 with 5:27 remaining in the second quarter, Cleveland closed the first half on a 22-2 run to open up a 57-39 lead. James and Ilgauskas each had eight points during the run, and Washington missed seven of eight shots and committed three turnovers.

After averaging 17 turnovers a contest headed into the final regular-season tuneup, the Cavaliers turned the ball over nine times and forced 15 Washington turnovers.

"We talked about taking care of the basketball and not having turnovers," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said. "I asked the guys if they could keep it below 13 turnovers, and our guys did a heck of a job."

James gave a nod to the Ohio State program by wearing a white Buckeyes T-shirt underneath his warmup shirt. He played 28 minutes after sitting out the previous game. On his way to the locker room, he tossed his shoes into the crowd.

"It means a lot," he said of playing in Columbus on the court where he earned three prep state championships. "Me being here in high school, playing here in March. I'm in love with Ohio State, everything that goes on with the campus, the sporting events, everything. To be able to bring my team here professionally was fun."

The Wizards, playing without injured guard Gilbert Arenas, could not match Cleveland's firepower and struggled to get any sort of rhythm going offensively. Forward Antawn Jamison and Ohio native Antonio Daniels each had 13 points.

Delonte West earned the start at shooting guard in place of Sasha Pavlovic and had two points before spraining his left ankle with 1:40 remaining in the second quarter. Pavlovic finished with eight points, three assists and three rebounds.

West could have gone back in the game if needed, Brown said.

After missing the Cavs' team bus earlier in the day, J.J. Hickson entered the game with 5:46 remaining and finished with two points and two rebounds.

The fourth quarter was delayed for 11 minutes after a member of the Cavaliers' Scream Team dance squad was injured while performing during a timeout. After being attended to by more than a half-dozen medical workers, he was taken off the court on a stretcher and had movement in all his extremities.

AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives to the basket as Washington Wizards' Etan Thomas, left, defends during the first quarter of a preseason basketball game Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, in Columbus Ohio.

Lakers 105, Thunder 94

In Ontario, California, Kobe Bryant, coming back from a knee injury, made a brief appearance at the start of Los Angeles' final preseason game Friday night and appeared to be moving fine in the Lakers' 105-94 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"Just making sure my rhythm was good, making sure my knee was good," Bryant said. "This way I wouldn't have to go out on Tuesday and experiment with it. It felt fine and I'll be ready to go."

The Lakers open the season at home Tuesday night against Portland.

Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson said before the game against the Thunder that Bryant would play only as much time as he wanted.

He played the first 7:55, went 2-of-3 from the floor and had one rebound and one assist before taking the rest of the night off.

Los Angeles' Andrew Bynum had 23 points, eight rebounds and three blocks while playing 29 minutes in the final tuneup for both the Lakers (5-2) and the Thunder (1-6).

Bynum was 10-of-15 from the floor. Jordan Farmar had 14 points on 7-of-9 shooting for Los Angeles.

"I thought we played reasonably well," Jackson said. "There are still some things we need to do individually, and to do as a team."

Rookie Russell Westbrook scored 23 for Oklahoma City, and Kevin Durant added 15.

Bryant, the NBA's reigning MVP, was back after missing the last game because of a hyper-extended right knee. He was hurt in a collision with teammate Josh Powell on Tuesday night against Charlotte in San Diego.

Slight swelling in his knee led him to sit out Los Angeles' 88-77 victory over the Bobcats on Thursday night in Anaheim.

NBA to allow expanded use of instant replay

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA's Board of Governors has approved the expanded use of instant replay for this season.

Referees will be allowed to review video to determine if a field goal was a 2- or 3-point attempt, or to decide if a shooting foul was committed behind the arc and warrants three shots instead of two.

"I can see at the end of the game that's a really important aspect," Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Thursday night before an exhibition game against Charlotte.

"We've been playing with the 3-point line, what, 30 years? There are mistakes that happen, and there are 2-pointers that are missed. But that's also part of the game. Guys step on the out of bounds line, guys are in the 3-second lane too long, guys hang on the rim—there are a lot of things like that."

At their meeting Thursday, owners also approved the use of replay if the game clock malfunctions in the final seconds of a quarter of overtime, helping the officials better determine how much time should have come off the clock or if the period should have ended.

Now, refs must reconstruct the play and make that determination without video—a rule that was criticized following a clock problem during an Orlando-Detroit playoff game last season.

"The mechanics of it is always interesting, how that's going to work out," Jackson said. "I think football's been caught in a dilemma where they end up having situations that have extended their games perhaps 15 extra minutes. I'm sure ours is going to be fraught with typical details.

DCCA meets PSS in opener of government league

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will start its title-retention bid against Public School System in the 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League to be sponsored for the first time by Budweiser.

The opening game of the softball season-ending tournament between DCCA and PSS in the government division will start tomorrow at 6:30pm at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

DCCA won both the men's and women's division titles last year after winning all of their games including 18 in the regular season.

They scored an unforgettable 43-11 blowout against Customs Aguaguat.

PSS finished third place last year, losing to Customs in the semifinals.

DCCA women's team will also open its title campaign when it meets Northern Marianas College tomorrow.

Game time is scheduled at 7:30pm with NMC aiming to avenge its 0-2 defeat in their best-of-three series.

The other game Monday will be between Team J's and P&S in the business division. This game will start at 8:30pm.

Last year's second place Customs will face Legislature in the government division in the first of three games on Tuesday, Oct. 28, starting at 6:30pm.

No Zone and Pacific Islands Club will square off at 7:30pm, while Freedom Air and CUC will debut at 8:30pm.

This year's tournament attracted the most number of teams—21 men and six women.

The complete list for the government division men's teams are DCCA, Customs, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Mayors, Commonwealth Health Center, Judicial, Commonwealth Port Authority, Division of environmental Quality/Coral Reef Management, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Legislature, and PSS.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
DCCA's Joey Dela Cruz swings in one of their games in the 2007 Inter-government/Business Softball League. DCCA will open the 2008 season of the annual league against PSS tomorrow at the Miguel 'Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Teams in the men's business division are Team J's, No Zone, Freedom Air, POI, Hopwood, Beach Boys, Saipan Cell, Pacific Islands Club, and P&S.

Teams in the women's side are DCCA, NMC, Finance, CUC, CHC, and PSS. Each team paid a registration fee of $400.

There will be three games per night, which will be held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 6:30pm for the first game, 7:30pm for the second game, and 8:30pm for the third game.

The league will have a single-round robin format with the Top 10 teams to go for a double elimination in an add/drop by team's second game format.

Games for the women's division will be played every Monday and Friday starting at 7:30pm.

The regular season will be three rounds while the playoffs will be all-in double elimination, also in an add-drop by team's second game system.

October Budweiser bowling Sunday and Monday

The Saipan Bowling Association and Budweiser will host the October King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament this Sunday and Monday, Oct. 26 and 27, at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Sunday's roll-off begins at 4pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old, not bowling in any leagues or averaging less than 170 in any league), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

After being sponsor-less for the whole of 2007, the Saipan Bowling Association's monthly King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament as well as its season-ending bowlfest has secured the help of MARPAC for this year's competition.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(SBA)***

Larry DLG wins, but Balakrishna takes SGA October Ace

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

LARRY I. Deleon Guerrero carded a net 67 in the Saipan Golf Association October Ace of the Month tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links on Oct. 19.

DL Guerrero, who has a handicap of 19, submitted a gross score of 86, including a 42 on front nine and 44 on the back to rule the weekend tournament.

But due to tournament rules, second place finisher Steve Balakrishna, who had a net 69, was declared October Ace winner. DL Guerrero had already won the April Ace title, disqualifying him from taking another monthly plum.

The 8-handicapper Balakrishna posted the lowest gross score of 77 after coming up with the lowest scores in both the front and back nines, firing a 37 and 40, respectively.

Norbert Sablan, one of the four players who made a greenie that led to his lone birdie on hole No. 6, closed out with a net 70 as the 23-handicapper had a 47 on the front and a 46 on the back.

The others with greenies were John Babauta on hole No. 8, Jess Castro on hole No. 12 and Ray San Nicolas on hole No. 15.

Tony Camacho also finished with a 70 for fourth place.

Camacho and Sablan were tied, but the scorecard playoff at hole No. 17 put Sablan ahead via the lowest handicap hole with a par against Camacho's bogey.

John Babauta and John Takai came up with identical net 71 for fifth and sixth, while Jess Castro had a net 72 for seventh place.

Four players finished with similar net scores of 73, and the list Edward Manibusan (8th), Joe Demapan (9th), Rick Kautz (10th), and Mariano Fajardo (11th).

Two players shot the longest drive with Castro on hole No. 14 and Kautz on No. 2.

Twenty-five players joined the October tournament

Completing the list were Frank Rosario (74), Art Deleon Guerrero (75), Joe Rosario (76), Ned Norita (77), Manny Alverez (77), Jose I. Sablan (77), Tony DL Guerrero (77), Ron Hodges (78), Ben Aldan (78), Martin Sablan (78), Ray San Nicolas (79), Jung Teack (81), and Das Krishnan (85).

Norita had the most birdies with three, including two on the front nine (hole Nos. 7 and Hole. 9). He had a bogey-free round in the first nine holes, giving him the second lowest score on the front with his 38.

But the five-handicapper started on the back nine with a bogey on the 10th and although he recovered easily with his third birdie on the 11th and a par on the 12th, he couldn't get his rhythm back as he bogeyed his last six holes, including a triple bogey on the 16th.

Meanwhile, SGA announced that the annual Turkey Shootout event will be held on Nov. 16 with the venue to be announced later.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

FRYS.COM OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)—Scores Friday from the Frys.com Open, a $5 million (4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event on 7,125-yard, par-70 Raptor Course at Grayhawk Golf Club

SECOND ROUND

Arron Oberholser	65-64	129
Steve Allan	67-63	130
Brad Elder	68-63	131
George McNeill	68-63	131
John Mallinger	63-69	132
Mathew Goggin	69-63	132
Paul Goydos	70-62	132
Robert Garrigus	66-66	132
Mathias Gronberg	65-68	133
Steve Elkington	66-67	133
Sean O'Hair	68-65	133
Kevin Sutherland	67-66	133
Billy Mayfair	69-64	133
Mike Weir	66-68	134
J.J. Henry	65-69	134
Todd Demsey	65-69	134
Chris Riley	67-67	134
Tim Clark	70-64	134
Woody Austin	69-65	134
Bill Haas	66-68	134
Mark Hensby	69-66	135
Michael Letzig	69-66	135
Bubba Watson	69-66	135
Charley Hoffman	70-65	135
Chad Collins	67-68	135
Michael Sim	72-63	135
Doug LaBelle II	63-72	135
Brian Davis	72-63	135
Richard Johnson	64-71	135
Kevin Streelman	68-67	135
Cameron Beckman	69-66	135
Frank Lickliter II	69-67	136
Patrick Sheehan	72-64	136
Bob Tway	69-67	136
Marco Dawson	65-71	136
Robert Gamez	67-69	136
Steve Lowery	72-64	136
Davis Love III	69-67	136
Nick Watney	69-67	136
Charles Warren	68-68	136
Chris Stroud	65-71	136
Tommy Gainey	68-68	136
Aaron Baddeley	67-70	137
Tim Herron	72-65	137
Y.E. Yang	66-71	137
Rocco Mediate	68-69	137
Tom Pernice Jr.	67-70	137
Omar Uresti	67-70	137
Pat Perez	71-66	137
Jim McGovern	67-70	137
Jonathan Byrd	71-67	138
Todd Hamilton	69-69	138
Shane Bertsch	69-69	138
Charlie Wi	68-70	138
Nick Flanagan	71-67	138
Glen Day	69-69	138
John Riegger	70-68	138
Rod Pampling	70-68	138
Mark Wilson	69-69	138
Brenden Pappas	69-69	138
Tommy Armour III	72-66	138
Brett Quigley	71-67	138
Ryan Armour	70-69	139
James Driscoll	70-69	139
Ryan Palmer	73-66	139
Jeff Quinney	68-71	139
Scott Verplank	69-70	139
Lee Janzen	67-72	139
Olin Browne	68-71	139
Peter Lonard	69-70	139
Scott McCarron	72-67	139
John Douma	70-69	139
John Merrick	74-65	139
Rory Sabbatini	72-67	139
Steve Flesch	69-70	139
Eric Axley	73-66	139
Bob Estes	71-68	139
Justin Bolli	69-70	139
Martin Laird	73-66	139

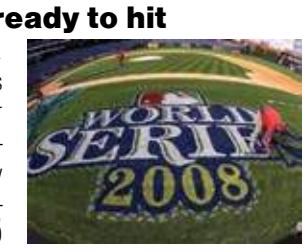
McAllister, Smith violated steroids policy

New Orleans Saints veterans Deuce McAllister and Will Smith reportedly are among several players who have violated the NFL steroids policy. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Rays pitchers ready to hit in Philadelphia

With the World Series shifting to Philadelphia for the next three games, National League rules apply and there will be no designated hitter. **25**



Daniel wins early rematch with Jeremiah in 3rd Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Daniel prevailed in its early rematch with defending champion Jeremiah, cruising to a 94-77 victory in the 3rd CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-Genesis Cup Friday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

Daniel lost to Jeremiah in last season's title match, 84-105.

In its first meeting with Jeremiah since last year's finals, Daniel had several returning players from last season's roster, while the defending champion paraded an almost new lineup.

Familiarity with each other helped Daniel nail an easy victory in its debut game this season.

Stalwarts Elmer Esdrelon and Darwin Barbo paced Daniel firing 24 and 22 points, respectively.

Esdrelon took care of business from outside for Daniel, drilling four triples and several long jumpers, while Barbo was a force in the paint, making most of his shots in the shaded lane.

Three other Daniel players scored in double figures with George Barbo adding 14, Sonny Ranola hitting 12 and Brendo Talania chipping in 10.

Wowee Abuel, one of the several new players in the league, tallied 19 points in his debut with Jeremiah. Glen Mercurio had 11 points, while Amor Casabuena contributed 10, but was held to four points in the second half.

Daniel took a 54-44 halftime lead as Darwin and George Barbo, and Esdrelon found their marks early.

Darwin had 15 first-half points, Esdrelon nailed 13, and George made 10.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Daniel's Brendo Talania, right, pulls up for a running jumper against Jeremiah's Wowee Abuel during their game in the 3rd CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-Genesis Cup Friday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

Esdrelon continued his hot shooting in the second half, adding 11 points, while Ranola, who was held to two points in the first half, redeemed himself in the second, hitting 10 points.

Abuel and Mercurio tried to bring Jeremiah back into the game in the second half, combining for 18 points, but these were not enough, as they drew limited help from their teammates, while Daniel continued to have a balanced offense.

Daniel 94—Esdrelon 24, D. Barbo 22, G. Barbo 14, Ranola 12, Talania 10, Umali 6, Dela Paz 4, Penalosa 2, Samson 1.

Jeremiah 77—Abuel 19, Mercurio 11, Casabuena 10, Olivos 8, Montano 7, Conti 5, Buenabajo 5, Lasaga 4, Garcia 4, Andales 4, Lopez 3.

Scoring by halves: 54-44, 94-77.

Cataluna secures Fil-Taga October Ace

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Fred Cataluna crowned himself champion of Fil-Taga Golfers Association's October Ace of the Month held last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

With a gross score of 80, the 10-handicaaper submitted a net score of 2-under par 70 to rule the tournament.

William Retardo also carded a net score of 70 but lost the championship via scorecard tiebreak.

The eight-handicapper finished with a gross score of 78.

Rene Batallones finished third with a net 1-under par 71. The 13-handicapper had a gross score of 84.

Finishing in the Top 5 were Mike Cruz and Greg Gamboa, who had similar net scores of 1-over par 73s.

Cruz, who has a handicap of 21, finished with a gross score of 94 for fourth overall, while Gamboa, who has a handicap of 23, managed a gross of 101 for fifth place.

There were a total of 15 regular Fil-Taga members who joined the October Ace tourney, which drew a total of 21 players including six new members.

The following lists is the regular members' gross scores, handicap, and net scores: Ted Malaran (94-20-74), Manny Corcuera (86-11,75), Nestor Siruelo (90-15-75), Pete Reyes (86-10-76), Mando Guban (92-16-76), Matutino Adony (97-20-77), Henry Bautista (93-13-80), Nono Bostre (113-30-83), Jhun Calma (100-14-86), and Rey Ferraz (108-19-89).

The club also welcomed six new members with Richard Meimban garnering the best score of 99. Rommel Cruz wound up with a 102. Jason Gatdula and Nazareno Ortiz Jr., meanwhile, carded similar 104s and Rodrigo Nimes managed a 109. John Matsumoto was the lone entry who did not finish the tournament.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Who are these guys?

Let's get Serie(ou)s.

Not many people know much about the Phillies or Rays, or care to know. Fox Sports cares. TV ratings are lower than last year.

Perhaps further illumination of these cleat-footed, heretofore anonymous, ball men will enhance a viewer's enjoyment of the 2008 World Series.

When Tampa Bay reliever J.P. Howell pitches he wears three socks, three underwear and three T-shirts. Why? Because it reminds him of three strikes and three outs.

Akinori Iwamura wears number 1 and in 2007, his 1st season with Tampa Bay, Iwamura began his workouts on 1/11 at 11:11:11 a.m. Strangely, he doesn't play 1st base.

The guy who does play first, Carlos Pena does his own dance in the dugout. It's called, of course, the "Pena Colada."

The Rays Melvin Emmanuel Upton started out at shortstop before moving to center field. Nobody calls him M.E, instead they call him B.J. His father was called Bossman, so the son naturally was called Bossman Junior. It all makes sense.

Speaking of B.J. Upton, he is the only player in baseball history with a last name starting with U to hit more than one home run in a postseason game.

Speaking of letters, now the only letters without a multi-homer postseason game are F, I, Q, X and Z.

B.J. Upton may be the best pure athlete in this Series, but only Carl Crawford was offered a scholarship to play quarterback for Nebraska and point guard for UCLA.

The oldest player at 45 is Phillies soft lefty Jamie Moyer. When the Phillies won the World Series in 1980, Moyer skipped school at nearby Souderton High School to attend the victory parade down Broad Street. That was the only time the Phillies won the championship in 124 seasons. No word if he plans to attend the parade if it is in Tampa Bay.

Game 1 starter and winner, Cole Hamels, led all Phillies pitchers with 3,433 pitches thrown in the regular season. That doesn't count warm-up pitches. Why the Phillies didn't have him scheduled to start Games 4 and 7, I have no idea. He is slated to start Game 5. If he started three games, the Phillies would probably win the Series.

Rays rookie superstar Evan Longoria never met actress Eva Longoria (Tony Parker's honey), though she recently sent him a bottle of champagne.

The father of Phillies SS Jimmy Rollins wanted his son to be a musician. It was his mother, a fast pitch softball player, who inspired him to become a baseball player.

Rays catcher Dionner Navarro was once traded for Randy Johnson. Well, yeah, there were some other players in the trade.

Rays manager Joe Maddon never played a game in the Major Leagues.

The only Series player who's played for both teams is Rays RP Trever Miller. It's okay if you never heard of him.